

No. 65,467

THURSDAY JANUARY 4 1996



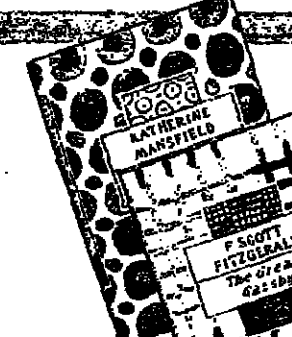
Win £5,000 of Lottery tickets
1,000 each for five runners-up
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One woman's path to enlightenment
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Lure of lottery's biggest jackpot attracts world's gamblers

By JOANNA BALE
THE record size of this week's National Lottery jackpot, estimated at £40 million, is attracting high-rolling gamblers and huge private and commercial syndicates from all over the world.

One lottery expert said that dozens of people were flying into Britain with thousands of pounds to spend on tickets, although reports of an Australian syndicate buying up all 14 million possible number combinations were dismissed. Stefan Klincewicz, who has masterminded 11 Irish jackpot wins, said: "There are people coming in from all over Europe and the United States."

Mr Klincewicz plans to buy a large number of tickets for his own private syndicate. His biggest win was a 10 per cent stake in a jackpot of £2.5 million in an Irish lottery. Commercial syndicates, which charge for buying tickets, are against National Lottery regulations, but Mr Klincewicz says they still buy tickets and win money. He added: "Commercial syndicates do target the National Lottery and win some smaller prizes. If they did win a big prize, however, Camelot would pick up on it. It would almost certainly end in court where Camelot would have to prove the winning ticket was purchased in excess of its face value."

Camelot, which is expecting an increase in ticket sales of 15 to 20 per cent, also said that it would not pay out any prizes won by commercial syndicates because they contravene the lottery regulations. Another expert predicted, however, that a large commercial syndicate may be interested if there was another rollover next week which would push the jackpot up to £60 million or £70 million. Sam Weren, an independent lottery expert, said: "This week's estimated jackpot of £40 million is not worth the gamble of buying up all 13,983,816 possible combinations. This is because the jackpot is shared between an average of 5.4 winners each week, so, assuming a similar number of winners, the top prize would only be £10 million to

£11 million for an outlay of nearly £14 million. "Even if the syndicate were to share the jackpot with just two other winners, then it would only win £14,800,000, which includes £1.5 million of the lower division prizes. A commercial syndicate would have to pay people to buy the tickets and it is just not worth the gamble, but if no one wins this week and there is another rollover, the odds of making a huge profit drastically improve."

Mr Weren estimated that it would take 220 people working 12-hour shifts to buy 14 million tickets in a week. Each person would have to fill in nearly 13,000 coupons, each containing five entries. That is based on the average 15 seconds it takes to process a five-board coupon. They would have to feed all their coupons into one machine which would arouse suspicions from the retailer and Camelot. Each machine is monitored by computers at Camelot's head office and the company has the right to

Continued on page 2, col 3

Insurers face £500m water bill

By ANDREW PIERCE, GILLIAN BOWDITCH
KATE ALDERSON AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

INSURERS are facing a £500 million bill for the water chaos that has shut down businesses and left tens of thousands of households cut off for days.

Hundreds of businesses across Scotland and the North East were told not to reopen after the Christmas break because of the water shortage and many said they would have to lay off staff unless supplies were restored soon.

General Accident in Scotland opened its offices two days early this week to cope with insurance inquiries, and a leading loss adjuster estimated that the bill was a "conservative £500 million" and rising. Nicholas Balcombe, chief executive of the Balcombe Group, said: "I have been taken aback by the sheer scale of the damage. I have been in wellington boots all week. It is a virtual disaster in some parts of Scotland."

Insurers were optimistic, however, that the bill would not approach the billions paid out after the storms in 1987 and 1990 and that premiums should not rise.

Water companies were again heavily criticised yesterday and share prices fell at the prospect of huge compensation claims while the rest of the Stock Market rose. Customers are entitled to at least £10 after they have been without water for 24 hours — and the costs must be met from profits.

The National Consumer Council said the severed supplies posed a public health risk, while the GMB union blamed privatisation and the subsequent cuts in the workforce. Donald MacGregor, GMB head of Staff, said: "The water companies have left off so many staff this was a disaster waiting to happen."

But the Water Services Association, which represents the ten companies in England and Wales, said: "Many of the problems have occurred in Scotland and Northern Ireland where the water authorities are still in the public sector."

In Grampian, tens of thousands of homes were still cut off after six days and no school will start the new term on Monday because of extensive damage to water and heating systems. Water to all industrial estates in the region was cut off on Monday, and Lothian has asked also factories to stop production until supplies are back to normal.

Bill Anderson, Scottish Secretary of the Federation of Small Businesses, said the water crisis was a disastrous start to the new business year and could cost millions of pounds. Uniroyal Tyres at Newbridge, Edinburgh, said the ban would cost up to £150,000 a day.

Bill Gold of NEC, which employs 1,200 staff at its semi-conductor plant in Livingston, said: "If we had not agreed to cut production, we would have shut down the water supply for the whole of Livingston."

In the North-East of England, 40,000 people were still being served by tankers, but the companies promised that their taps should be running again within 36 hours.

Ashington remained cut off for the third day running and is not expected to have its supplies restored until Friday. Special services have been set up for local hospitals, which have cancelled routine surgery, but the residents' misery was compounded by damaged pipes. There were also reports of taps being ripped off tanks, allowing water to drain away.

John Hargreaves, managing director of Northumbrian Water, said: "Trying to keep a service going has been like filling up a bucket full of holes."



Madonna, summoned to testify after she said she was too sick to come to court

Madonna faces 'stalker'

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

MADONNA was called to testify in court yesterday against a man who forced his way onto her grounds and "made threats to slice her throat from ear to ear".

Chaos scenes reminiscent of the O.J. Simpson trial awaited the pop singer's arrival at the Los Angeles criminal courts building for the trial of Robert Dewey Hoskins, 39. He is charged under a new California anti-stalking law aimed, not least, at protecting thousands of celebrities from their obsessive fans.

Mr Hoskins's fixation with Madonna — real name Veronica Ciccone — led him three times last year to her extensive walled estate in the Hollywood Hills, an outlandish place painted in horizontal stripes of terra cotta and orange on the crest of a ridge beneath the fabled "Hollywood" sign.

The third time, claiming to be her husband (she has never married), he was shot and wounded in a scuffle with one of her guards. In anticipation of her arrival, an eerie calm that has shrouded the courthouse since Mr Simpson's acquittal was rent again by the yelling of camera crews, reporters, T-shirt sellers and policemen trying to keep order.

Despite her reputation for craving publicity this was not an appearance Madonna wanted to make. Ever since



Hoskins shot in scuffle with security guard

Mr Hoskins's arrest after the scuffle on her grounds last October, she has resisted giving evidence against him. She has claimed variously to be too busy, too vulnerable, too sick and too tired to come to court.

Judge Jacqueline Connor has not been impressed. Knowing Madonna is the star witness in the case, the judge threatened her with arrest for contempt of court and bail that would have been set at \$5 million if she failed to appear.

The Material Girl, who may secretly be gratified by the interest in the case given her fading career as a pop star, was originally due in court on Monday. But her lawyer, Nicholas DeWitt, appeared without her to negotiate a postponement of one day and the banning of cameras from the court.

Mr Hoskins, who faces a maximum of ten years in prison if convicted, has "never been in Madonna's presence", his lawyer said. If so, that seems about to change.

Covent Garden may have to go on the road

By DEBRA CRAINE

COVENT Garden's singers and dancers may find themselves moving from theatre to theatre next year. The Royal Opera House, home of the Royal Opera and the Royal Ballet, has suffered a major setback in its plans to find a new home while Covent Garden is closed for a two-year redevelopment.

The two companies had expected to move to the Tower Bridge Theatre, a purpose-built venue on the South Bank of the Thames, in September 1997. But the opera house management has been told that the new 2,300-seat theatre will not be ready in time, forcing them to search for alternative sites between 1997 and 1999, when Covent Garden is scheduled to reopen. These are believed to include the Royal Albert Hall and the Coliseum, home of English National Opera.

A statement issued yesterday said: "The Royal Opera House is therefore considering the feasibility of performing in a variety of venues, in London and on tour, if a viable base for the whole period cannot be found."

This would enable the Royal Opera House to secure the continuity of the Royal Ballet, the Orchestra of the Royal

Opera House and the Royal Opera House Chorus, and fulfil commitments to principal artists.

The opera house management has rejected suggestions that the companies should stop performing during the two-year closure period. "We are looking at a variety of performing activities," said Keith Cooper, director of corporate affairs. "We need to be flexible enough to go into the Albert Hall for a Wagner concert, for example, and then go elsewhere for a run of *Nutcracker* or *Butterfly*."

It is likely that regional touring for the Royal Ballet will be stepped up during the closure. The Royal Opera, meanwhile, could find itself staging a series of small-scale works at various venues across London, as well as Albert Hall concerts.

Despite the setback, the opera house will close as planned in the summer of 1997 to allow for its £200 million redevelopment, £78.5 million of which is coming from the National Lottery. The future of Tower Bridge Theatre now looks in doubt as attempts to find a second tenant for the building have so far failed. Work was to have started on the theatre this month.



Adams had scored only four runs before

England at mercy of bowler's batting

FROM SIMON WILDE IN CAPE TOWN

PAUL ADAMS, the 18-year-old spin bowler who is South Africa's youngest Test cricketer, dealt England what may prove to be a decisive blow in Cape Town yesterday — with the bat.

Adams, who had previously scored only four first-class runs from a total of 16 balls, reached a sprightly and unflustered 29 in a fast-wicket stand of 73, the highest in the low-scoring fifth Test.

As a result, South Africa took a first-innings lead of 91 over England who finished at 17 for one, having lost the key wicket of Michael Atherton.

Report, page 44

US keeps Jupiter's secrets

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AFTER 18 years of preparation and more than 2.3 billion miles of space travel, the Galileo space mission has finally sent a treasure trove of data about Jupiter's atmosphere.

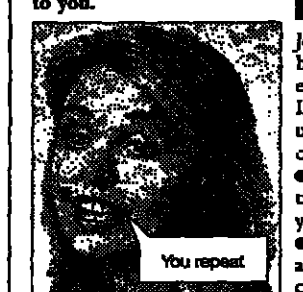
However, NASA, the US space agency, is being prevented from disclosing the mysteries of the planet by the government shutdown. Until The White House and Congress resolve the budget crisis, NASA lacks the money to stage the news conference.

Last month a probe released into the Jovian atmosphere sent back a mass of data before burning up. That is now processed and scientists are longing to share what they describe as "some very interesting surprises".

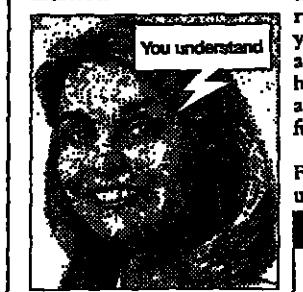
Republican split, page 11



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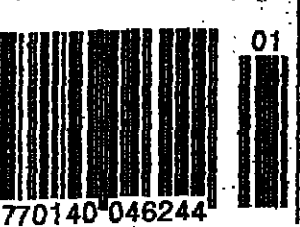
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Ulster paramilitaries name ten alleged drug dealers in Protestant areas

Loyalists draw up murder hit-list

By RICHARD FORD AND JOHN HICKS

LOYALIST paramilitaries are threatening to start a murder campaign against alleged drug dealers in Protestant areas of Ulster after drawing up a hit-list of nine men and one woman. The ten people on the list drawn up by the Protestant Action Force are in fear of their lives and are moving from house to house regularly to avoid being killed.

Yesterday's disclosure of a loyalist hit-list came amid ministerial alarm in London and Dublin at damage to the peace process caused by the spate of killings in Northern Ireland.

Two men in their twenties who are accused of being drug dealers on the list issued in Antrim by the PAF, a flag of convenience for the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force, with-

drew from a press conference in Belfast yesterday where they would have admitted being involved in petty crime.

Nancy Gracey of Families Against Intimidation and Terror said that the men decided against making a public appearance after the killing of Ian Lyons on New Year's Day. Mr Lyons, aged 31, was shot dead by Direct Action Against Drugs, a cover name for the Provisional IRA, at Lurgan, Co Armagh. Three out of 14 men on a death list issued by Direct Action Against Drugs have been killed.

A nightclub owner has also announced that he is to abandon Saturday night raves in Armagh after having his life threatened by Direct Action Against Drugs. Donal Gorman said that his Arena club



Ian Lyons: shot dead on New Year's Day

will revert to a disco from this weekend after telephone threats to him and to a local radio station, demanding a shutdown.

He said the RUC had told him the threats should be taken seriously: "In the light of

what has been happening recently, I find the threats terrifying but my commitments are such that I can't just shut down the club."

Ms Gracey, a founder member of Families Against Intimidation and Terror, said that the Royal Ulster Constabulary had offered the nine men and one woman safe haven and warned them to keep their heads down. "Their reaction to being on this new list is total fear. They are moving from safe house to safe house to try to stop any attack."

"This is a carbon copy of the IRA campaign and is very worrying. It is a time for people on both sides of the community to get out on the streets and protest against such lists," Ms Gracey said.

"At least if the Royal Ulster Constabulary deal with these matters people had a chance

in the courts. Even murderers have a trial and a solicitor to represent them and a judge to try them. These people just get a bullet in the back of the head, fired by cowards. The killings have little to do with the drugs problem. It's all about carving out territory, power and control in particular areas, and settling old scores. It keeps the little foot-soldiers happy. They have been itching to get back to war," she said.

The killings have heightened anxiety within the Province that the ceasefire is slowly breaking down. They have also increased doubt about the prospect of the early start of all-party talks designed to produce an overall political settlement.

They have produced division in the ranks of the Ulster Unionist Party with John Tay-

lor, the deputy leader, demanding an end to talks with Sinn Féin while the IRA continues to kill people and Ken Maginnis, a fellow Ulster Unionist MP, saying nothing should be done which would allow Gerry Adams to claim that the Government had brought the ceasefire to an end.

Mr Taylor spoke of the potential drift back to sectarian violence. "We have Catholics being murdered almost on a weekly basis by the IRA and before long it will be Protestants," he said.

The Social Democratic and Labour Party has urged the Government to ignore the call to suspend contacts with Sinn Féin because of the murders and said that violence from any quarter should not be allowed to veto the peace dialogue.

Gamblers

Continued from page 1
turn off any machine. The average retailer sells 3,000 tickets a week, although big stores sell many more.

Although Camelot says that it will not knowingly pay out to a commercial syndicate and that it has the right to refuse to pay anyone without giving a reason, such a decision could be overturned in the courts, Mr Weren said.

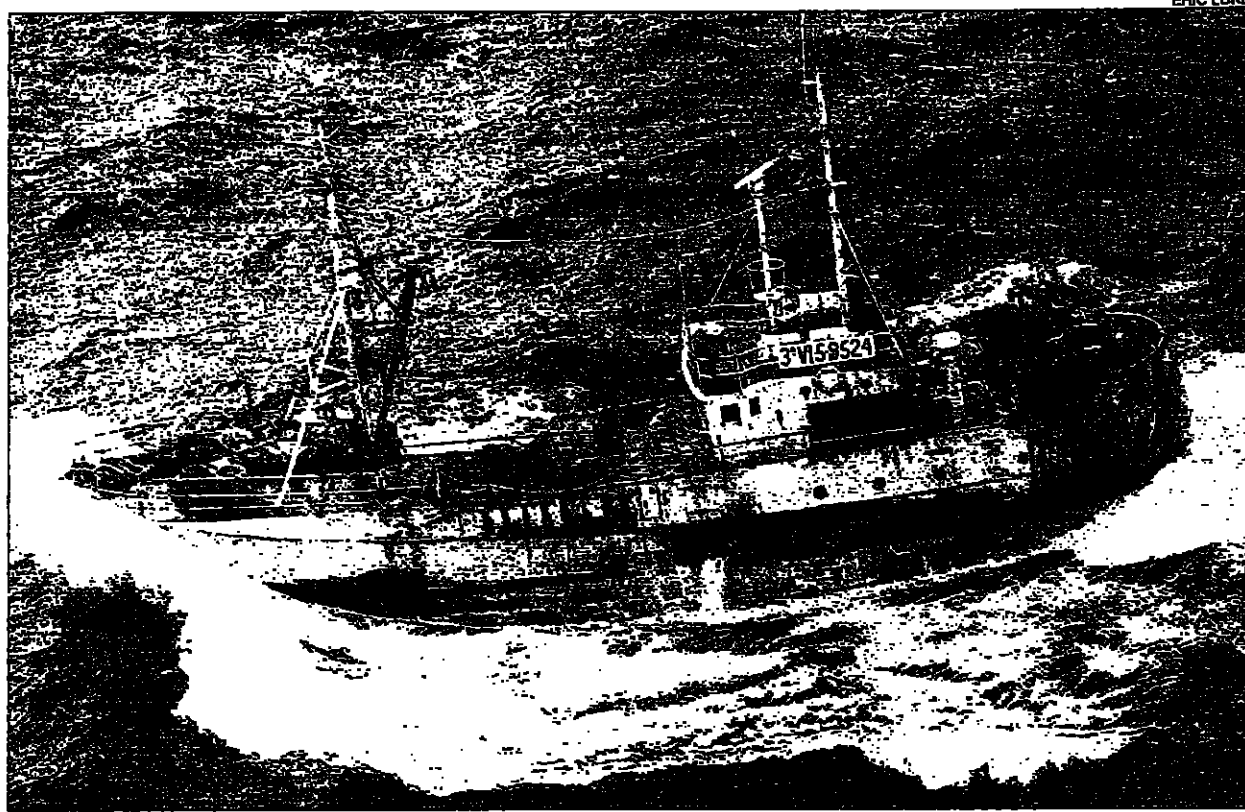
He said: "Camelot might refuse to pay out, but a commercial syndicate could have a very good case: where do you draw the line between large office syndicates and commercial syndicates?"

Camelot and the Heritage Department said yesterday that "only a lunatic" would waste time and money buying up all the possible number combinations. A department official said that the lottery had been designed with a limit of three rollovers so that the prize fund would never grow big enough to make a syndicate "string" worthwhile.

Only Camelot can issue lottery tickets and they must be filled in by hand, a further control. The Heritage official estimated that it would take 50,000 hours to fill in the possible combinations and noted that a syndicate would have only a week to do it.

Ofot, the National Lottery regulator, said that if a syndicate overcame all the practical problems and covered every number, it would still have a less than 50 per cent chance of recovering its stake this week because it would have to share so much of the prize money with other winners.

It is not illegal for a syndicate to operate, but Camelot need not pay a prize on a ticket that it knows or suspects has been resold or otherwise transferred by way of trade.



The Spanish trawler Cova de Ballea was detained by the Irish navy on Tuesday for alleged log offences

Spanish trawlers head for Irish Box

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE first Spanish trawlers were due to arrive last night in waters round Ireland and off the southwest of Britain from which they have previously been excluded. A 40-vessel Spanish flotilla has been entitled since January 1, under last month's European agreement, to fish inside the Irish Box, 70,000 square miles of water from the west of Scotland to south of Ireland.

Two boats were on course to enter the Irish section of the fishing grounds by midnight, the Department of the Marine in Dublin said yesterday. In London the Ministry of Agriculture said it expected the first Spanish boats would arrive this

week in the British-monitored section of the box off southwest England.

Spain has submitted a list of 35 named boats authorised to fish in the Irish Box between January 1 and January 14, of which up to a maximum of 20 can fish at one time. "We are not sure why the Spanish have not yet taken their full entitlement," a ministry spokesman said. "Presumably their list reflects the level of interest shown so far by Spanish skippers in access to these waters."

More than two thirds of the Irish Box is under the control of Ireland, which has seven naval vessels and two aircraft patrolling the area to enforce Spanish compliance with limits on the type and amount of fish that can be caught. The Ministry of Agriculture has a Royal

Navy vessel, HMS *Lindisfarne*, on station off the southwest of England and the Scottish Office is deploying the fisheries protection vessel *Norna* off the west of Scotland.

If the rules are obeyed, Spain will not be allowed this year to have any more boats or to catch any more fish than it did in 1995 in waters to the west of Britain, despite gaining access to the Irish Box.

Labour yesterday criticised the sale of Royal Navy auxiliary vessels to foreigners who convert them into fishing boats which can operate in British territorial waters because they are registered in this country. David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary, said two 273-ton vessels sold by the Navy last year were in Spain being fitted out as trawlers.

Red tape 'is harming standards in schools'

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE GOVERNMENT must halve red tape in schools as part of a campaign to stop education standards declining, a former senior civil servant said yesterday.

Sir Geoffrey Holland, who retired as permanent secretary at the Department for Education in 1994, urged ministers to launch a crusade against bureaucracy to give teachers more time to concentrate on classroom work.

Sir Geoffrey, speaking at the North of England Education Conference in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, outlined a 10-year programme required to reverse Britain's slide down the league table of international competitiveness.

He said: "In general, 13-year-olds in English schools lag two years behind their continental cousins and never catch up later." Given simple sums to do, only 4 per cent of the least able 13-year-olds in

British schools got them right. In Germany, more than 75 per cent were able to give the correct answer. The consequences of a growing skills gap were reflected in Britain's drop from 14th to 18th place in world economic competitiveness rankings last year.

He also called for incompetent teachers to be sacked and threw his weight behind the abolition of A levels in favour of a unified qualification system embracing academic and vocational study, as planned by Labour.

Sir Geoffrey, now vice-chancellor of Essex University, said the Government would be "sad and seriously wrong" not to invest £1 billion in local projects to increase achievement levels by 30 per cent.

His proposed ten-year programme includes cutting wastage and helping to increase the return on money spent on education by 30 per

cent. Exams should be changed so that students could take them at their own pace, rather than face major hurdles at 16 and 18, "hurdles at which many fall or fail". Sir Geoffrey said the £1 billion should fund local projects by schools, colleges, universities and employers.

Under plans being prepared by Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, schools are to be given greater freedom to select pupils by interviewing them.

The measures will be put forward later this month, along with extra powers for all schools to select more pupils by specialist ability in areas such as music, sport, drama and technology. The Times disclosed in November that Mrs Shephard would allow schools to increase the proportion of pupils admitted.

Leading article, page 17

Whitehall failing to detect fraud

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR civil servants were last night accused of "pathetic" financial monitoring of their departments after official figures showed that Whitehall detected just £2 million of internal fraud last year.

Even though the published figure is a record, critics believe the true level of fraud may be as high as £80 million. Government departments are responsible for £500 billion of expenditure and receipts a year.

Three quarters of the fraud was reported by just four departments: Defence, Transport, Social Security and the Foreign Office. Of 58 central government bodies questioned, more than half claimed to have experienced no fraud at all.

The Department of Health reported just £14,000 of fraud in all of its agencies, while the Board of Trade, one of the

largest and most sprawling of government departments, reported only £99 of fraud.

Wide discrepancies were found in the way departments register fraud. Some departments report fraud to the Treasury only when the perpetrator is caught. Others have still failed to implement an anti-fraud strategy as demanded by the Treasury two years ago.

The published figure is "the tip of a very large iceberg", Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, said. "I just do not find the figures believable. Some departments clearly need to shake up their controls." He called for an immediate inquiry.

Further Parliamentary answers have disclosed that civil servants and contractors were caught making off with £2,124,700 in 1994-95. Only £572,000 has been recovered.

Tory Right decries Left's 'foolish' agenda

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

LEADERS of the Tory Right yesterday urged John Major to ignore the "foolish" agenda of Conservative leftwingers as he reacts to the defection of Emma Nicholson. In a heightening of tensions between the rival party factions, the Right called on the Prime Minister to rule out British membership of the single currency under any Tory government.

Writing in *The Times* today, Sir George Gardiner, chairman of the right-wing 92 Group, attacks the Tory wets for claiming as their own the "one nation" ideal which he says is shared by most in the party. He adds that the agenda of the wets is for taxation at a level that would sustain the

"full panoply" of the welfare state, a liberal penal policy which they hope will reform criminals, as open door a policy on immigrants as possible and ever closer moves to full European union.

For Mr Major to respond to the defections by making concessions in those directions would be the most foolish possible reaction because it is not what the people want, he says. The Prime Minister should say what the majority of the people want to hear him say on a single currency - that he cannot conceive of a Tory government ever surrendering political sovereignty in that way.

Sir George's intervention



Gardiner attacks wets over one nation ideal

came as the Tory Left risked further turmoil by confirming plans to publish its own policy agenda next month, senior ministers voiced alarm at the

renewed outbreak of in-fighting following Miss Nicholson's departure, and Labour challenged the Tories to call the Staffordshire South East by-election.

William Waldegrave, the Treasury Chief Secretary, called for unity after it was confirmed that the centre-left MacLeod group of Tory MPs, which claims 50 members, said it was bringing forward detailed policy plans. But Mr Waldegrave, insisting that the Conservative Party was a "broad church", said on BBC radio: "I do not think it is very sensible of people, in what might conceivably be an election year, to be challenging people in their own party."

Peter Temple-Morris, chairman of the MacLeod group,

denied planning a left-wing manifesto. "We are trying to be more vigorous in producing one nation views within the Conservative Party. We don't want to give the impression of sitting on top of the opposite hill flying the Jolly Roger."

But the centre-left renewed its attack on Michael Portillo for his criticisms of Miss Nicholson. They said he risked turning "a crack in the party into a crevasse". Mr Portillo, on a visit to the Philippines yesterday, said that Mr Major would not be swayed "by the disloyal actions of a few who choose to cut and run to other parties".

Resign call, page 9
Sir George Gardiner, page 10

Keep ban on gays, say Army chiefs

Army chiefs have strongly recommended keeping the ban on homosexuality in the Forces, insisting that the time for homosexual rights in the military "is not yet with us, and probably never will be".

Among the concerns is that the Services would be obliged to provide married quarters for homosexual partners. Such a move would have "serious morale implications", according to an internal Army report.

A government decision on whether to change the ban on homosexuals is expected early this year. The ban was called into question during a judicial review.

Festival boss goes for votes

The Glastonbury rock festival will not take place this summer. Instead, the organiser will be trying to persuade long-suffering local residents to elect him as their Labour MP.

The annual jamboree of mud, noise, music and shopping will be back in 1997, by which time the voters in the currently Tory seat of Wells will have delivered their verdict on Michael Eavis, a farmer. He said: "It has always been our practice to take a break every three or four years."

School backs security policy

Security will not be stepped up at St George's school after the fatal stabbing of the head teacher Philip Lawrence, it was disclosed on the first day of term yesterday. Mr Lawrence died after confronting a gang outside the school in west London in December.

Ian Hamerton, administration manager, said the school was already secure and the gates were locked whenever appropriate. He added: "It is my belief that the gang were not local and I don't think that they would return because they don't have the courage."

Genes hasten salmon size

Genetically-altered salmon which grow 10 times faster than normal are being created by scientists in Scotland, according to a report in *New Scientist*. The scientists are injecting 10,000 salmon eggs at a hatchery on Loch Fyne with genes from another fish to accelerate their growth, the magazine says. The Scottish fish-farming industry hopes the modified salmon will greatly increase profits. However, conservationists fear that if the fish escape, they could endanger wild salmon in the North Atlantic.

CORRECTIONS

□ In Mr C.J.A. Cope's letter of December 19 the reference to delays in replacements for the amphibious assault ships *Amphibious* and *Intrepid* should have been three years, and not three months as printed.

□ We regret that a photograph of Mr James Boucher was wrongly used to accompany an obituary (December 30) of Mr Jimmy Boucher, the Irish international cricketer.

□ The highest paid director of Tadpole Technology in 1995 was Geoff Burr, former head of US operations, whose remuneration of £220,592 included £116,425 in compensation for loss of office (report, January 1).

Teenager recovers from coma after taking tablet and drinking too much water



Doctors feared that Helen Cousins would die after she drank at least seven litres

Drug agencies change advice to Ecstasy users

BY JEREMY LAURANCE AND STEPHEN FARRELL

DRUG agencies are altering their advice to Ecstasy users to alert them to the danger of drinking too much water.

Yesterday a teenager who had taken the same combination of Ecstasy and huge quantities of water that killed Leah Betts on her 18th birthday awoke from a 24-hour coma. Helen Cousins, 19, a sales assistant for a financing company, was recovering in Peterborough District Hospital, Cambridgeshire, after taking the drug at a New Year's Eve party.

After the death of Miss Betts last November, the Health Department warned drug agencies to emphasise to drug users that water is not an antidote to Ecstasy but to the dehydration caused by prolonged dancing in a hot atmosphere.

The Health Education Authority, which launched its drugs campaign the week after Miss Betts died, has reprinted the leaflet it issued to teenagers to include the new warning. It says young people who use Ecstasy should drink plenty of water to replace fluid lost through sweating but should also eat salty snacks and drink fruit juice or fizzy drinks to maintain the essential mineral balance in the body.

Ecstasy can cause compulsive repetitive behaviour and users have been known to

drink up to 20 litres of fluid or smoke 100 cigarettes in a matter of hours. The drug also triggers the release of a hormone that slows down the action of the kidneys, preventing the body eliminating the excess fluid and leading to "water intoxication".

This happens when a person drinks so much water that the blood becomes diluted and water is sucked into the brain under osmotic pressure, causing it to swell. Beer drinkers who consume ten or more pints in an evening do not encounter the problem because alcohol acts as a diuretic, speeding up the action of the kidneys rather than slowing it down.

Friends saw Miss Cousins, from Werrington, a district of Peterborough, looking unwell at a nightclub shortly before midnight. They took her to a flat then to hospital where she collapsed unconscious after telling ambulance men she had taken Ecstasy. Doctors feared for her life after finding seven litres of water in her stomach.

Her mother Janet, 51, said she was shocked to hear that her daughter had taken Ecstasy, and friends said it was the first time she had taken the drug. "Helen is our only child and we are totally devastated by what has happened. She is a pretty girl, bright and bubbly who has many friends



Janet Cousins: daughter given anti-drug advice

hoping she will pull through this terrible tragedy," she said. "One of Helen's friends said our daughter is the most special person she knows. Supply of this dreadful drug has to be stopped."

Her voice breaking, she appealed to her daughter's friends to tell police who supplied the drug. "Our daughter is lying in hospital in intensive care after taking just one Ecstasy tablet - this could be your daughter, your son, your sister, your brother. We never thought it could happen to us but it has and now we have to deal with it. Please, if you are tempted to take drugs think about it, don't take the risk."

Mrs Cousins told police she had talked to her daughter about drugs and brought home advice leaflets. "I just don't think any parent can

take anything for granted. It doesn't matter who you are and how safe you think your daughter is, they are not."

The parents of Leah Betts sent a message of sympathy and support to Mr and Mrs Cousins. Leah's father Paul, a retired policeman, said: "It makes me wonder if we are getting through at all."

Video footage from the nightclub is being examined by detectives to establish if the drug was supplied inside. Partygoers were searched for drugs and the club recently brought in a members-only rule, so police know who was in the club at the time.

Doctors treated Miss Cousins by stimulating the water flow through her kidneys slowly to correct the sodium level. However, the risk to Ecstasy takers comes in using the drug, not in trying to combat its effects.

Dr Michael Dronfield, consultant physician at Peterborough District Hospital, said: "Our body isn't meant to dance all night. The Ecstasy prevents you feeling fatigued when you should be taking a rest. It is almost certainly nonsense that these drugs are contaminated. People put that around to make it sound like Ecstasy is safe, but basically Ecstasy is intrinsically unsafe."

Doctors expect Miss Cousins to make a full recovery without any permanent damage to her kidneys.

Boy dies 10 days after dog attack

BY ADAM FRESCO

A BOY aged 11 mauled by two rottweilers after he climbed into a neighbour's yard died yesterday. Doctors had been treating David Kearney's injuries for ten days.

His parents had stayed at his bedside over Christmas as they prayed for him to pull through, but on Monday he suffered a massive heart attack. He developed a blood clot and his kidneys failed. It was then that his parents allowed doctors to switch off his life-support machine.

His father was at his bedside as he died. Kevin Kearney said: "His little body had got to the stage where it couldn't take any more."

The attack happened on the night before Christmas Eve. The boy climbed into a yard near his home in Darwen, Lancashire, to fetch a football. He was mauled for 15 minutes.

When he was taken to the Booth Hall Children's Hospital, Manchester, for emergency surgery, his left leg had to be amputated just above the knee.

Kevin Turner, owner of the dogs, had them destroyed after the attack. Police said no action was expected to be taken against Mr Turner, but that a file would be submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service.

The boy's uncle, Robert Kearney, 48, said: "His mother, Margaret, said her good-byes and just wanted to remember him as he was. Her heart is broken, but she's just trying to get on with things."

Briton plunges to his death over Victoria Falls

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

A BRITISH tourist has plunged 100 metres to his death over Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. Jonathan Rodwell, 30, lost his footing during a guided tour across a shallow tributary of the Zambezi and fell into fast-flowing water. It was a freak accident.

"We were returning from the viewing platform and crossing the river. You have to bound across these streams," Mr Carruthers was 30ft behind his friend and rushed forward when he saw him slip but was unable to reach him in time as the water carried him to the edge of the Falls.

The dead man's father John Rodwell, 61, said at the family home at Poppleton, North Yorkshire, that he was waiting for the body to be released. It will be flown home with the assistance of the British High Commission in Harare and an inquest will be held in York.

Mr Rodwell said: "We are dealing with affairs as best we can. It has come as a terrible shock and we are only just getting used to it. Andy Carruthers denied reports that Mr Rodwell had fallen from a footbridge after being hit by a

rush of water. He said: "Hundreds of people use the stepping stones but Jonathan missed his footing and fell into fast-flowing water. It was a freak accident."

Jonathan Rodwell slipped and fell

Jonathan Rodwell slipped and fell

Missing ingredient may control gluttons' appetite

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

PEOPLE prone to gluttony may be underproducing a key brain chemical, scientists said yesterday. Researchers have discovered a natural compound made by the body after a filling meal which they suspect plays a key role in controlling appetite.

Tests have found that blocking the action of the substance, which is called glucagon-like peptide 1 or GLP-1, causes rats to carry on eating even when they should be full, doubling the amounts they eat. The scientists, whose findings are published in the British journal *Nature*, believe the role of the peptide in the human body is identical to damping down appetite after a meal.

Someone who fails to produce enough of the peptide is prone to overeating and obesity. Professor Stephen Bloom of

the Hammersmith Hospital in west London said the discovery may prove important for helping to improve treatments for a range of eating disorders. "We still have to test this in humans. But I would not be surprised if the pharmaceutical industry are going hell for leather to make mimics of GLP-1," Professor Bloom said.

Fat people might soon be able to take synthetic versions of the substance, a protein hormone, after dinner to stop them seeking extra helpings or raiding the fridge. The findings have been made by a team at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School based at the hospital and Cambridge University.

Previous research has identified two substances produced in the brain linked with hunger and feeding. Neuropeptide Y appears to

stimulate feeding whereas leptin, made by the body's white fat cells, appear to reduce overall appetite.

The new appetite suppressant is found in the brain and intestine at the end of the meal. Professor Bloom said it was likely that the body made it in response to an extension of the intestine or rising blood sugar levels due to food. "It not only stops the eating but is also involved in release of insulin to help digest food," he said.

The researchers are now trying to unravel the precise relationships between the various substances involved in appetite and stopping eating.

But they believe GLP-1 may be the most potent inhibitor of feeding yet identified.

Body & Mind, page 14

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Hi-tech thieves raid BA offices

By Harvey Elliott
AIR CORRESPONDENT

THIEVES have stolen the memory chips from nine personal computers in British Airways' London headquarters.

The robbery, which was discovered on Boxing Day by a security guard on a routine tour of the Berkeley Square offices, is thought to have been carried out on Christmas Day. Computers throughout the offices, including those of the chairman and chief executive, were broken into.

It soon became apparent that no sensitive information had been taken and that the thieves were targeting the hardware, which has a high resale value. BA immediately replaced the chips at a cost of £300 each.

"It would appear we have become the latest victim of computer chip crime," a BA spokeswoman said last night. "Fortunately no information was taken and we were able to replace the chips quickly."

British Airways, which is the 13th biggest user of computers in Britain, was one of a group of companies that joined a number of police forces to create an action group aimed at finding ways of curbing computer crime and protecting high value chips.

Computer chips valued at more than £30,000 were stolen during a raid on the headquarters of Berkshire County Council in Shire Hall, Reading, discovered yesterday. The thieves forced open a rear window on Tuesday night.

Chief constable says police need pepper sprays after sledgehammer assault

Burglars fracture WPC's skull as she defends colleague

By Adrian Lee

A CHIEF constable called for his officers to be armed with pepper or CS sprays yesterday after a vicious attack that left a young policewoman with a fractured skull. WPC Vanessa Greening, 22, and a colleague, PC Jon Jackson, 30, were beaten with an iron bar and a sledgehammer early yesterday when they tackled six burglars in the King's Heath area of Birmingham.

PC Jackson was also attacked with a knife, prompting the Chief Constable of the West Midlands, Sir Ronald Hadfield, to call for better protection for police. He said he feared that one of his officers would be killed, despite an amnesty to encourage knives to be surrendered.

PC Jackson, a married man who has four years' service, was attacked when he confronted the gang and left lying helpless on the ground. WPC Greening, an officer for two years, went to his help and was beaten outside the house on the Brandwood estate. She managed to radio for help and the police control room listened as the attack continued.

PC Jackson, who needed six stitches in an arm wound, was discharged from hospital yesterday. He watched as the gang rounded on his partner.

"I have spoken to Vanessa briefly and the injuries she has sustained are diabolical. It was just shock and horror when I saw what was going on. I couldn't believe it."

"I am still very shaken and a little bit stiff. I have been

involved in a similar incident before but, at the end of the day, this was the result of being a working police officer. A job I enjoy."

WPC Greening, who is single, was too badly injured to talk from her bed at Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham, where her condition was said to be comfortable. Her father, also a police officer, said he was shocked by the injuries suffered by his daughter.

Inspector John Greening, 43, said: "She is as well as can be expected and her head is very painful. This was an unprovoked attack and it just shows what young officers have to go through every day on the streets."

"I have had 20 years in the service and what I am seeing now is that there are more and more of these incidents taking place."

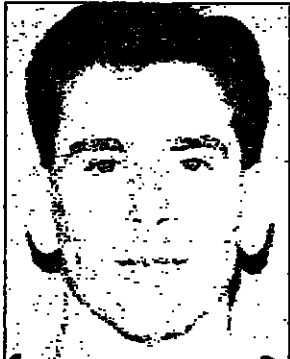
The chief constable said: "My officers are protected by a

baton and that's it. The next step is firearms. I think one of the answers in the slow and almost unending march to arming police officers is to give them incapacitants. I would personally prefer to see the use of pepper spray, which I know has worked well in the United States, rather than CS gas."

He said there was an urgent need for action. "My fear is that it will take the death of an officer before a decision is reached. There could easily have been a murder inquiry going on today. We ask a tremendous amount of our officers to put them out on the streets unarmed where, apart from their strength and bravery, they have very little to protect them."

He said other chief constables supported his view but political and medical opinion was delaying action. Police were last night questioning a number of men about the assault.

Pepper sprays were considered by the Home Office and widely supported by police but abandoned after fears that their use could lead to serious injury or death. Instead the Home Office decided to test CS sprays. These have also run into difficulties after a London police inspector received serious eye injuries after taking part in a course before their issue. The sprays could finally be issued for testing on the beat later this year after work to modify the propellant.



PC Jackson: needed six stitches in arm wound



WPC Vanessa Greening, recovering in hospital after the gang of six attacked her

Woman stabs four in knife rampage

By Bill Frost

FOUR people suffered serious stab wounds yesterday when a woman went on the rampage at a jobcentre with knives and screwdrivers.

Police officers dragged the woman screaming from the scene at Bexleyheath, south-east London, as bystanders rushed to help one of the injured, a man with a carving knife embedded up to the hilt in his head. Simon Bridge, 24, an electrician from Welling, London, was at the jobcentre in search of work. Police said later that the blade had bounced off his skull and lodged in his scalp.

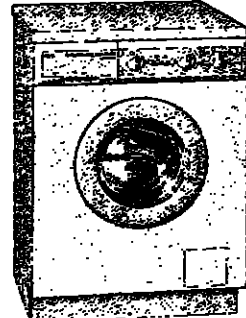
Two women, also with stab wounds to the head, and a jobcentre employee with deep cuts to his arm and chest were admitted to Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup. The man was recovering last night after surgery. Scotland Yard would not comment on a report that the woman had visited the jobcentre on Tuesday and was angry that her Giro payment was not ready the following morning.

Acting Sergeant Ian Wheeler, one of the first on the scene, said: "The woman had at least two knives and two screwdrivers and I understand there was more. There were lots of blood." He said the man wounded in the head was "conscious and talking" when police arrived. He added: "The knife was sticking out at an angle. The man was calm but then he hadn't seen himself." There had been about 30 people in the jobcentre.

Martin Richardson, 27, a witness, said: "I saw the woman put in a van and she had a smile on her face."

A 27-year-old woman was in police custody last night.

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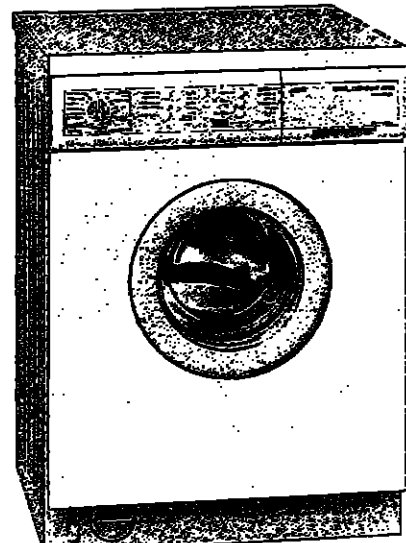
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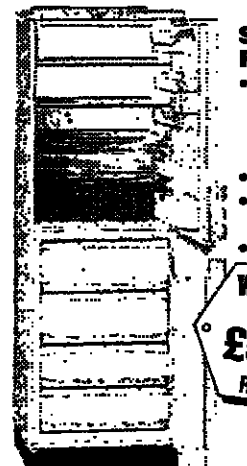
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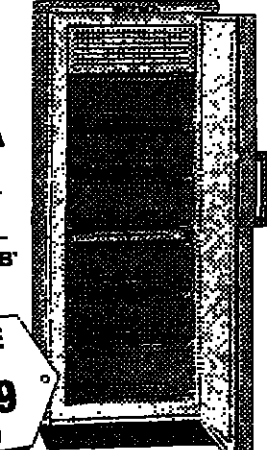
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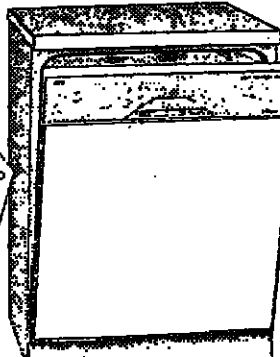
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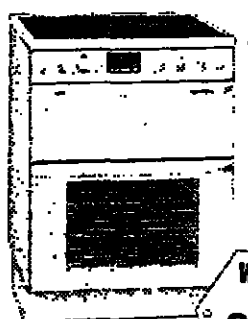
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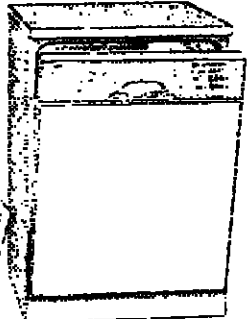
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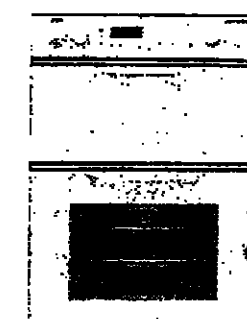
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Psychological society

Wives suffer more after redundancy

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

THE wives of company executives who lose their jobs suffer greater depression than their redundant husbands, according to a study. The era of the Dumpie (downwardly mobile professional) is leaving a trail of domestic unhappiness in its wake as wives provide succour for their discarded husbands but find no one to turn to themselves.

Senior managers offered counselling to find another job were protected from feeling depressed. But their partners felt more strain, especially if they had a job, but were not offered help.

Arya Johnson, senior lecturer in psychology at Chester College, interviewed 32 executives made redundant from their jobs who were on so-called outplacement counselling programmes. The men, including former chief executives, financial controllers and accountants who used to earn an average of £53,000 a year, attended the offices of an outplacement company every day in their search for a new job which helped to give them a daily routine.

The men were aged 45 on average and had been employed by their previous organisation for 13 years. Their female partners were 43 and

60 per cent were employed outside the family home. None of the families faced immediate financial difficulties or was having to change their lifestyle to survive as a result of the redundancy. But the wives coped less well than their husbands.

Presenting her results to the British Psychological Society's annual occupational psychology conference in Eastbourne yesterday, Ms Johnson said: "The women felt isolated and needed some informal support to turn to for help. Some I interviewed were experiencing borderline depression and a high level of anxiety." She called on the Government to recognise that the families of people made redundant need help.

All the interviewed executives, who were given pay-offs of up to £95,000, said they turned to their wives for emotional support, whereas 12 per cent of the women said they turned to their husbands. "Families tend to be isolated from each other during unemployment and outplacement consultancies could do much to reduce the strain by providing support through individual counselling and forums for partners to meet and share their experiences," she said.

Firms must avoid culture of blame

By Our Health Correspondent

COMPANIES hoping to succeed must tolerate mistakes by senior managers or risk stifling innovation and producing a "blame culture", psychologists said yesterday. Fear of making mistakes discourages experimentation and leads to unimaginative thinking. If managers are encouraged to think creatively and find different ways of doing things they are bound to make mistakes, the psychologists from Oxford said.

A study of mistakes made by 230 senior figures in business and politics shows they are an essential part of learning. The results provide support for the views of Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft, who said he would not employ a senior manager unless he had made some big mistakes.

The commonest mistakes identified by the team, from the occupational psychology firm Pearn Kandola who



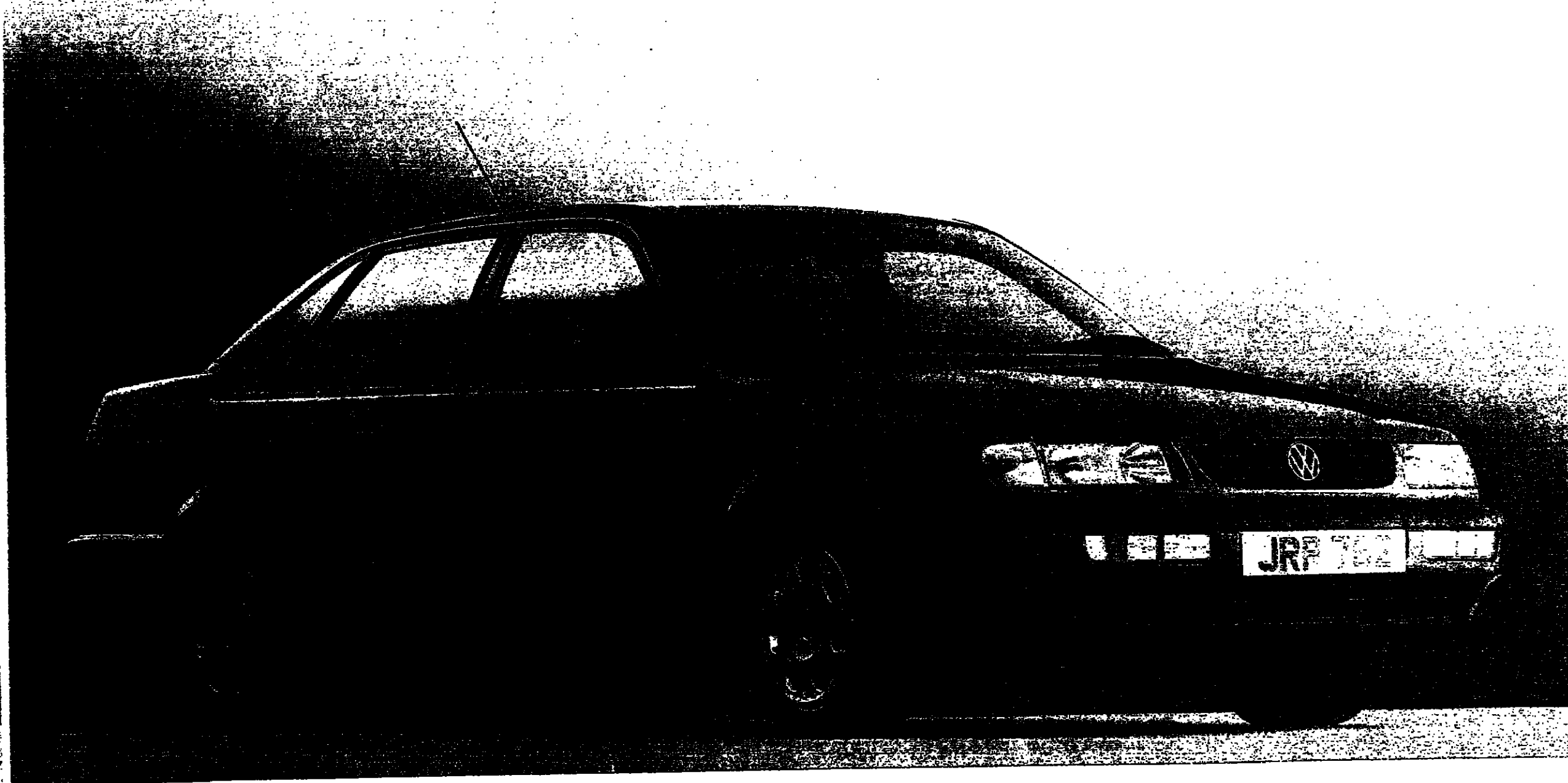
Gates: defends those who make mistakes

presented their findings to the British Psychological Society yesterday, involved handling information.

Tim Payne, a researcher, said: "If people are going to innovate, mistakes are unavoidable. If management come down like a ton of bricks it can have a devastating effect on people. They should say 'let's sit down and see what we can learn from this.'"

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Links investigated between Celine's death and other murders near motorways

Police fear serial strangler is stalking young women

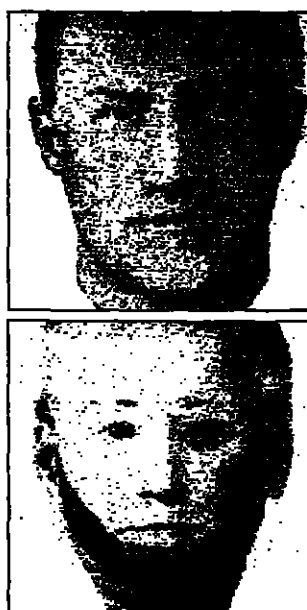
BY KATE ALDERSON, RICHARD DUCE AND STEWART TENDLER

MARKED similarities between police pictures of the suspected killer of Celine Figard and the murderer of a Liverpool woman were being studied by detectives yesterday amid fears that a serial killer is stalking young women.

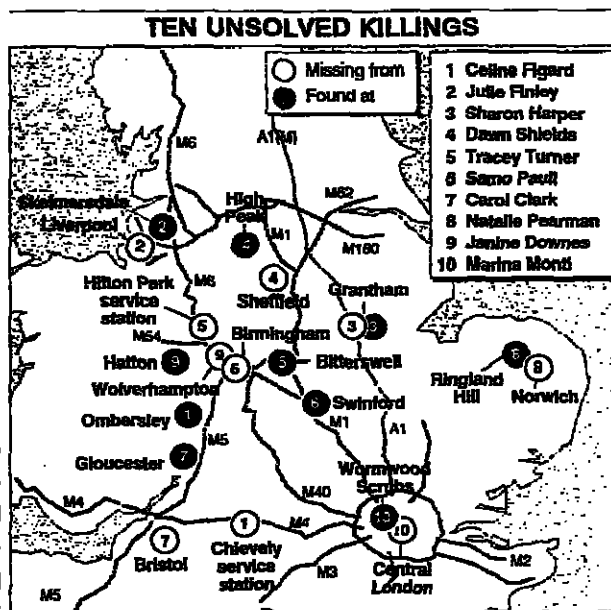
As West Mercia police confirmed they are looking at any links with the murder of Julie Finley two years ago, the inquest into Miss Figard's death was briefly opened and adjourned yesterday. Police also continued searching through hundreds of records of lorry drivers for traces of the man who offered her a lift nine days before her body was found on December 29.

Miss Finley, 23, a prostitute, was found strangled in a field near Skelmersdale, Lancashire, in August 1994. Her murder is one of nine killings dating from 1987 that police have examined for links after fears were raised that a serial killer might be at work. So far none has been found.

West Mercia police have already said they will be looking closely at another of the nine: Tracey Turner, who was killed in March 1994. She was at a service station before



Wanted: photofits of the suspected murderers of Julie Finley and Celine Figard



she vanished, as was Miss Figard, 19.

The photofits of the men wanted in connection with the two murders show similarities in the shape of their features. The information released by police about Miss Figard's killer describes a white man aged 35-40 with short cropped fair hair and a close-cropped beard. The man wanted for

the murder of Miss Finley is described as white, in his twenties, 5ft 11in, of medium build with short dark hair.

Detective Sergeant Ian Clarke, a member of the Finley murder team, said: "We are taking the prospect that we may have a serial killer very seriously. We have young females who have been in contact with lorry parks and

hitch-hiked, all have been strangled, all were found in rural areas near a motorway network."

service was then asked to make the research national, and researchers found 31 cases, 23 unsolved.

When researchers and analysts began to look for similarities they came up with a cluster of nine. Each of the women was strangled. They were all left naked or partly clothed and their bodies were dumped with little or no attempt at concealment. Many were left close to a motorway network. Each of these features also applies in Miss Figard's murder. Two of the nine were found near lay-bys and others left in ditches, two on waste ground and two in open country.

Because eight were prostitutes, it was impossible to say whether they had been sexually assaulted. So far police have failed to find a "signature" indicating that one man committed all the murders. Yesterday all the forces involved denied there was any evidence of links. However, some detectives privately accept there could be links.

In the past few weeks police have also begun investigating the death of Danielle White, whose body was found on rail tracks at Blisworth, Northamptonshire, on December 12. Miss White, 28, was known to have worked as a prostitute.



Julie Finley



Sharon Harper



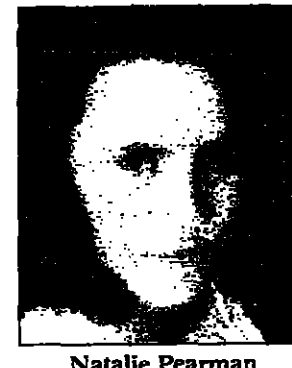
Dawn Shields



Tracey Turner



Samo Paul



Natalie Pearman



Carol Clark



Janine Downes



Marina Monti

Nine victims of perhaps one killer

POLICE investigating the murder of Celine Figard are concentrating on establishing a link with the killings of nine women.

Julie Finley, 23, was known to have vice contacts in Liverpool. She was found in a field beside the A570 near Skelmersdale, Lancashire, in August 1994.

Sharon Harper, 21, whose body was found in July 1994 on waste ground close to the public house in Grantham, Lincolnshire, where she worked as a barmaid.

Dawn Shields, 19, was last seen alive in May 1994 in the red-light district of Sheffield getting into a dark hatchback. Her body was found in the High Peak district of Derbyshire.

Tracey Turner, 33, was found on a grass verge in Bitteswell, Leicestershire, on March 3, 1994, seven hours after she was last seen at the Hilton Park service station on the M1. She was known to the police as a prostitute who frequented service stations.

Samo Paul, 20, a

Birmingham prostitute, vanished in December 1993, and was later found strangled in the village of Swinford, Leicestershire, six miles from where Tracey Turner was dumped.

Carol Clark, 32, was discovered half-naked at the docks in Sharpness, Gloucestershire, near the M5, in March 1993. She lived in Bristol and on the night she disappeared left a note for her boyfriend saying she was going to look for a client.

Natalie Pearman, 10, was found dead in November 1992 just outside Norwich, where she was a known drug addict and prostitute.

Janine Downes, 27, went missing from Wolverhampton in February 1991. Her body was found in a lay-by on the A464 between Telford and Wolverhampton.

Marina Monti, 27, a London prostitute who disappeared after going out to work in January 1987. Her partially clothed body was discovered close to Wormwood Scrubs prison.

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TIM1

Inspector finds fresh chickens unfit to eat

By ROBIN YOUNG

CHICKENS sold as top quality in leading supermarkets are often unfit to eat and liable to cause food poisoning, the Consumers' Association says.

Researchers for the association's *Which?* magazine bought 26 samples of Class A fresh chickens and chicken portions from seven supermarkets in London. Nine were condemned as unfit for sale by a former poultry inspector.

Several birds had been so poorly gutted that testicles, intestines, windpipes and in one case a rectum had been left inside.

A spokesman for Sainsbury's said the company was discussing the findings with its suppliers "to ensure our high standards are achieved".

Asda said: "There is amazingly little comment from the public about fresh chickens, so we believe most people must be generally very satisfied."

A spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture said that chickens as described in the *Which?* report would pose no threat to public health provided they were handled and stored hygienically and cooked properly.

Woman recovers after five years in vegetative state

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A YOUNG woman who suffered severe brain damage in a car accident five years ago, and was left in a persistent vegetative state, has recovered and been discharged from hospital.

The case of the 18-year-old American, who showed no responses for more than a year after the accident, could reopen the debate about patients in persistent vegetative state who have been allowed to die.

In Britain, the courts decided that feeding could be withdrawn from Tony Bland, a victim of the 1989 Hillsborough football stadium disaster, who was in a vegetative state for four years. Similar cases since then have included that of a 27-year-old Welshman who suffered brain damage after a dental anaesthetic in 1991 and was allowed to die last year.

Doctors argue that the condition of patients who show no awareness of their surroundings and no response to commands for a year can be regarded as irreversible. The American Academy of Neurology says a vegetative state can be considered permanent if it lasts for 12 months or more.

The first, tiny responses from the 18-year-old, whose

case is reported in today's *New England Journal of Medicine*, were noted by staff 15 months after she was admitted to hospital in Austin, Texas. She was treated with drugs and within weeks was answering questions with eye blinks. She wrote "Mom, I love you."

Three years after the accident she was communicating, using eye blinks for "yes" or "no", and after five years was mouthing words and phrases. She was allowed to go home after five years and three months.

The term persistent vegetative state was coined more than 20 years ago by Professor

Bryan Jennett of the Institute of Neurological Sciences in Glasgow to describe patients who were awake and not in a coma but showed no evidence of awareness.

In recent years, some specialists have criticised the term because it fails to distinguish levels of vegetative state — patients vary in their degree of responsiveness — and the diagnosis can cause medical staff to abandon hope.

Dr Keith Andrews, medical director of the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability in Putney, southwest London, which specialises in the treatment of patients in a vegetative state, said medical staff tended to be too negative about what patients could achieve because few had enough experience to detect responsiveness.

"You have got to give patients the chance to live before you give them the chance to die," he said. "If they are paralysed and can't speak it is difficult to detect any communication."

However, the cases in which the courts had allowed patients to die had been hopeless. "I assessed most of them and all the ones I have seen I have been satisfied that they were really vegetative and had no chance of recovery."



Bland: allowed to die after Hillsborough



Caitriona and Marianne White leaving for their first day at school yesterday

Twins born a month apart join same class

By A STAFF REPORTER

TWINS born within minutes of each other in different educational years have won their fight to join the same class. Caitriona and Marianne White were born 19 minutes apart but education officials insisted they be put in different years at school because Caitriona was born in August and Marianne in September.

After a four-year battle, the twins' mother, Bernadette, 35, was told that the girls could start in the same class at school in Stretford, Greater Manchester, yesterday. Mrs White, a mother of five, gave birth to Caitriona at 11.45pm on August 31, 1991, and Marianne at 12.04 on September 1. She said: "It's a victory for common sense and twins across the country. Twins should never be split up just because of a 19-minute difference in birth times."

The girls will be the youngest pupils at St Theresa's Roman Catholic Primary School after Mrs White and her husband Martin, a computer consultant, were allowed to register both births on August 31.

Jackie Butler, of the Twins and Multiple Births Association, said: "Families can face problems when they try to ensure their children will stay together but the very important bond between twins should be respected."

Driver goes wrong way along M45

Two drivers were injured when a man aged 78 drove south for four miles on the northbound carriageway of the M45 in thick fog, forcing other cars off the road before realising his mistake as he headed towards the M1. The man, from Blisworth, Northamptonshire, was being interviewed by police yesterday.

Coach deaths

A coach driver has been summoned on 13 counts of causing death by dangerous driving after an M4 crash during a Royal British Legion outing. Stephen Brown, 39, is due to appear before Bristol magistrates on January 16.

Girl stabbed

Police questioned a girl aged 15 after another girl was stabbed in the back during an argument over a boyfriend at Grimsby, South Yorkshire. Last night, Victoria Parkin, 16, was in intensive care with a punctured lung.

Solar lighthouse

The last keepers will leave the Harolds Lighthouse, near Guernsey, today when it becomes Britain's first offshore beacon to run on solar power. Automation is expected to save £894,000 over the 15-year life of the new equipment.

Worldwide alert

Internet addiction could become as damaging as alcohol or drug abuse, says Dr Mark Griffiths, a psychologist at Nottingham Trent University who has found children spending 14 hours a day on the worldwide computer system.

Chemists 'selling unsuitable drugs' over the counter

By A STAFF REPORTER

MANY chemists are selling people the wrong medicines or failing to offer the right advice, the Consumers' Association said today. An unsuitable drug was sold on 14 out of 30 occasions when researchers posing as customers visited chemists.

In half the cases the researchers were not advised to see a doctor when they should have been. Five researchers for *Which?*, the association's magazine, visited ten pharmacies for the survey.

Each researcher presented a different problem designed to test the quality of advice and the safety of over-the-counter drug sales. They found that:

□ Seven out of ten pharmacies wrongly sold the painkiller Nurofen, containing ibuprofen, which can interact with some prescription medicines. No questions at all were asked in two of the pharmacies.

□ Staff in nine pharmacies failed to spot the symptoms of a potentially serious illness that urgently required treatment by a doctor.

□ A researcher who said he was suffering from diarrhoea after a trip to Asia not only failed to be referred to a doctor but was also sold an unnecessary medicine.

□ In five cases, sales assistants did not ask the right questions when a hay fever treatment was requested. When they did, two recommended the wrong drug.

Charlotte Gann, a senior editor of *Which?*, said: "We have criticised pharmacists time and time again for

failing to protect consumers from the dangers of over-the-counter drugs. Unfortunately the service is still not up to scratch, despite pharmacists promoting their advisory role. Some staff haven't even got to grips with the basics."

"Our findings on the sale of Nurofen are particularly worrying. This is such a common drug that we were appalled at how many pharmacies sold it without vital safety checks," she said.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society said in some cases the criticisms were misplaced — the pharmacists concerned had acted properly in all the circumstances. But it was concerned about the cases where pharmacists appeared to ask no questions at all of people buying medicines.

"It is pharmacists' responsibility to ensure that only appropriate products are supplied and that the customer knows how to use such products safely and effectively," said the society. "Where necessary the pharmacist should, of course, refer a patient to a medical practitioner."

"The society is working hard to improve the level of service provided by pharmacists through the introduction of professional guidelines on the procedure to follow when medicines are sold. Some pharmacists seeking to implement the society's guidelines, however, meet with resistance and in some cases even hostility from some customers who do not wish to discuss their symptoms."

Body and Mind, page 14

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Is this why the Wise Man brought myrrh as a gift?

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE mystery of why the Wise Man brought myrrh to the birth of Christ may have been solved by scientists who have isolated two painkilling compounds from the substance, a resin from a north African shrub.

Researchers said it raised the tantalising notion that the kings brought at least one gift not for the Son of God but to ease the labour pains of the Virgin Mary. A spokesman for Church House in London said yesterday: "If that were the case it would have been of little use. They were a bit late and He was already born."

Myrrh, a natural compound extracted from a group of tropical shrubs called *Commiphora*, has been linked with perfumery, embalming and medicine since the Ancient Egyptians. Hippocrates, the Greek doctor, recommended myrrh for sores and the Romans



The Wise Man's myrrh had medicinal powers

used it for treating mouth and eye infections.

According to St Mark's Gospel, a myrrh wine called "vinum myrratum" is offered by the soldiers to Christ before the Crucifixion. But the new research is the first to confirm scientifically that the resin, made of essential oil, water soluble gums and alcohols, can actually kill pain, and to define the substances in-

involved. The findings, published in the British journal *Nature*, have come from a team of scientists at the University of Florence. They measured the time it took two groups of mice, one having been given a myrrh preparation, to register pain after their paws had been put on a hot metal plate. The mice were considered to have felt pain when they began licking their paws.

Tests showed that it took more than five minutes or over 25 per cent longer for the mice given myrrh to feel pain. The scientists then isolated three likely compounds and retested these on the mice. Two were found to have a powerful painkilling effect.

Dr Piero Dolara, Professor of Pharmacology at the university, said yesterday that it was possible that other painkillers were also in the "complicated resin". Whether the two could be used by mainstream medicine remains unclear.

Wholson
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Pro-septics
defection
huge irony

Running out
Tory revival

Growing demand for a by-election creates split between activists and ordinary voters

Nicholson should resign and fight, say constituents

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

CONSTITUENTS of Emma Nicholson gave clear backing yesterday to demands that she should stand down from Parliament and face a by-election after her defection from the Tories to the Liberal Democrats.

Although activists in both parties are unhappy at the prospect, voters in the Devon West and Torridge constituency — including her supporters — believe the MP should face the electorate.

Their demands were backed by a Westcountry TV telephone poll which found that 72 per cent of its 4,000 callers believe that the MP should resign.

The result is a dilemma for Paddy Ashdown. While the Liberal Democrat leader and Miss Nicholson have indicated their support for a by-election, if widely demanded by local people, it would anger local Liberal Democrat activists.

They are in the middle of selecting a new parliamentary candidate and would oppose any attempt by the national party to impose Miss Nicholson on them.

Members of the seven-strong shortlist, who are being interviewed this weekend, have already voiced their concern. John Rawlinson, the local Liberal Democrat chairman, said a by-election would be awkward.

"We are not really in favour of a by-election at the moment," he explained. "We are supposed to be a democratic party but to impose a candidate on the local party would be very difficult to accept."

Nicholas Waterhouse, the party's constituency secretary, said: "A by-election would be particularly pointless and unconstructive."

Local Tories, who have already begun the process of selecting a new candidate, are

equally concerned. Margaret Taylor, the Conservative Association chairman, said she would not welcome a by-election. While she understood the demands being made by Tory MPs, they had to recognise the practical difficulties of a by-election so close to a general election.

"If people start clamouring for one, then one might begin to feel something should be done. But it is up to Miss Nicholson," she said.

Mrs Taylor said her members were still bewildered by the affair. "The fact that they elected a Conservative but now have a Liberal Democrat is very hard for them to understand. I fail to understand how anybody could change their long-held views in a matter of two or three weeks. We had had several visits from Cabinet ministers recently and at each event she made a speech telling us how



Dame Margaret Fry, left, says "Go for it". Margaret Taylor, centre, says a poll on Nicholson, right, is impractical

splendid John Major and the Government were."

However, Dame Margaret Fry, president of the local Tory Association, said she would welcome a by-election. "We are quite happy to go for it and we will win it. You have got to do the honourable thing at a time like this."

Miss Nicholson has a majority of 3,614 in the West Country constituency, which incorporates the fishing community of Bideford, central market towns, and the sparsely populated Western reaches of Dartmoor. Yesterday, many of the 71,000-strong electorate

were still stunned by the weekend defection. One pub even had burnt an effigy of Miss Nicholson at its New Year celebration, when locals traditionally set light to an "ashen faggot" of ash and hazel twigs.

In Okehampton, one of the main market towns, voters clearly backed a by-election. Terry Miller, 44, who works in a car parts shop, said: "I think she should stand down. She is not actually representing the Tory party at present. It's not fair on the Tories, and it's not fair on the Liberals because they didn't vote for her."

Paul Chaudoir, 59, owner of a bone china shop, said: "I think it would be a marvellous gesture if she put her money where her mouth is and stood down to be re-elected."

Barry Evans, 53, a retired policeman, said: "I think she was a little presumptuous in thinking that she would win. She should give us the chance to prove her wrong."

Peter Morley, a pet shop owner, added: "She should resign the seat but I think she would win it back again as a Liberal Democrat."

Even in Miss Nicholson's home village of Winkleigh there were calls for her to

stand down. Leon Hunt, 63, a retired college lecturer, said: "She's been elected as a Tory here and she should not be allowed to cross the floor. She should not represent the area unless she has held a by-election."

Eamon Duffy, landlord of the Winkleigh Hotel, said: "Anybody who crosses the floor should stand down." Mike Childs, a local motor dealer said: "I think she is quite a good MP despite what people have said, but she should stand down."

William Rees-Mogg, page 16

Blair takes his trade pledge to Far East

By PHILIP WEBSTER

TONY BLAIR will take a message that he has changed the Labour Party for good to the Far East today. On a trip to Japan and Singapore the Labour leader is planning to tell industrialists and politicians that Labour is unhesitatingly a "pro-free trade party".

Mr Blair, who is travelling to Japan after a Christmas holiday in Australia, is determined to use the visit to increase his international stature and to enhance the impression that Labour is preparing for government.

In a speech to the Japanese CBI tomorrow Mr Blair is expected to claim that Britain under Labour will be a better bet for inward investment by Far East companies. He will assure government ministers and leaders of industry that under his government there would be no going back to punitive rates of taxation or the bureaucratic rigidities of state control.

While Mr Blair is in Japan Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, will be in Washington for talks with senior members of the Administration, spelling out Labour's economic approach.

Euro-sceptics see defection as huge irony

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

EMMA NICHOLSON'S claim that she has deserted the Tories because of their stance on Europe is viewed with massive irony on the Conservative Right. It comes at a time when the Right believes it is being outmanoeuvred in the Cabinet, particularly by Kenneth Clarke.

John Major's decision at the Madrid summit to use a BBC interview to rule out a Tory manifesto pledge keeping Britain out of a single currency for the lifetime of the next Parliament is laid firmly at the Chancellor's door by his Euro-sceptic enemies.

The Prime Minister is known to have been toying with the idea of the manifesto pledge during the Conservative conference last October. It would have been eagerly supported by ministers such as Michael Howard, Michael Portillo and Peter Lilley.

But Mr Clarke and Michael Heseltine were strong advocates of leaving open the Government's options, and they held sway. It was Mr Clarke, at a press conference in Madrid, who first ruled out the pledge, although Mr Major had gone close in the Commons two weeks before.

What came as even more of a surprise to the Tory Right was Mr Major's declaration in the Commons after the summit that a Maastricht treaty rule that would have prevented Britain joining a single currency on January 1, 1999, no longer applied. Under Maastricht, a country could

not join a single currency unless it had rejoined the exchange-rate mechanism, which Britain left in 1992, and served a further two years in it.

But to the chagrin of Labour as well as Tory sceptics, Mr Major said the rule no longer applied because the ERM as constituted at the time of Maastricht no longer existed.

According to well-informed sources, the Cabinet had never been told of this change, and Mr Major's words took some Cabinet ministers aback. The significance was not lost on them. The old rule would have prevented Britain being among the first group of single currency members. The fact that it was no longer operative had at least made it possible for it to go in from the start.

The Euro-sceptics believe that Mr Major is now almost certain to pledge a referendum on a single currency. But they believe that the price for Mr Heseltine's and Mr Clarke's agreement will be an understanding that the Cabinet of the time would be bound by any decision to go into a single currency.

If Labour wins the election, that will be not be Mr Major's problem. If, against all the odds, Mr Major is returned, at least three members of the next Tory Cabinet, Mr Howard, Mr Portillo and Mr Lilley, would find themselves with no option but to resign and campaign against a single currency in a referendum campaign.

Time running out for a Tory revival

By PETER RIDDELL

THE Tories have to recover further than at any time since their post-Falklands revival of 1982-83 if they are to win the next election, according to an analysis of MORI polls for *The Times*.

The Tories have managed only a slight recovery from previous record low levels. Tory support in October to December last year was 27 per cent, an increase of four points since its low at the end of 1994. But the Tory vote needs to rise to about 43 per cent to be sure of re-election.

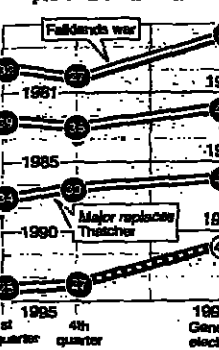
With at most 16 months to go before a general election, the Tories require a much larger recovery than the party managed in the final 18 months of the last two parliaments — of 16 percentage points compared with seven and four points.

The Tories' lowest point in the 1987-92 parliament was 34 per cent in the first half of 1990. At the end of 1990, after John Major had replaced Margaret Thatcher and during the Gulf crisis, the rating was 39 per cent, rising to 43 per cent in the April 1992 election.

In the 1983-87 parliament, the low point was 32 per cent in the summer of

HOW THE TORIES FIGHT BACK

How Conservative support has risen in the last two and a half years of previous Parliaments



1985, before the share picked up to 36 per cent 18 months before the June 1987 general election, again won with 43 per cent.

The only time when the Tories have managed as large a recovery as they now require was in 1981-83. Their rating, according to MORI, fell to 27 per cent in the final quarter of 1981. The Tories then recovered over the next 18 months to 44 per cent, though this reflected both the impact of Mrs Thatcher's leadership during the Falklands conflict and divisions in the Labour Party. Mr Major cannot count on such help.

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*Not available on 14i or 18 Turbo Diesel. **Standard only on 1.6i. *On the road price includes Recommended Retail Price, delivery charges, 12 months road fund licence and estimated costs of number plates and tax. Vehicle shown - Escort Cabaret 1.6i. Also available Escort Cabaret 1.8 Turbo Diesel - £12,600 on the road.

مركزنا من الأمل

Bosnians accuse peacekeeping force of breaking promises

Nato acts over 'abductions'

FROM STACY SULLIVAN
IN SARAJEVO

NATO intervened yesterday after the alleged abduction of 16 Bosnian civilians by Serb forces in a suburb of Sarajevo threatened to undermine one of the key provisions of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Peace Accord.

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Walker, the British commander of Nato ground forces in Bosnia, met Prstojevic Nedjeljko, the Mayor of the Ilidza suburb, to discuss the civilian disappearances after Bosnian Serb officials admitted that they had detained several people. The peace accord achieved in Dayton, Ohio, guaranteed freedom of movement for civilians throughout the country.

The Bosnian Government alleges that the 16 people were abducted as they attempted to cross a road running through the Serb-held suburb of Ilidza, which was opened to civilian traffic by Ifor, the Nato peace implementation force, two weeks ago.

The situation remained unresolved, however, as both sides gave different accounts

of events and Nato officials continued to insist that it was not within their mandate to intervene on behalf of the detainees.

The mayor said that eight people had been held, the majority of whom were in military uniform and had "penetrated deep in Bosnian Serb territory to commit criminal acts". He said that, while most had been released, three were being charged with criminal offenses. The Bosnian Government said none of the 16 civilians had been released.



Prstojevic Nedjeljko, left, the Mayor of Ilidza, with Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Walker yesterday

General Walker, responding to Mr Nedjeljko's admission that several Bosnians were being detained, said: "The mayor quite understands that the requirements of the Dayton peace agreement are such: there is to be total freedom of movement throughout the country... this is clearly not the case."

Meanwhile, at a meeting at Sarajevo airport, officials on both sides met to discuss the issue. The Bosnian Serbs refused to say how many people they were holding, but said

those in custody were considered prisoners of war.

The Bosnian Government continued to demand the unconditional release of the civilians and accused Ifor of not fulfilling its promises. However, Nato officials say that there have been criminal acts of abduction that should be addressed by the appropriate civilian authorities.

William Perry, the American Defence Secretary, who was visiting Bosnia, yesterday urged that an international police force be created "as soon as possible" in Sarajevo. Mr Perry met President Izetbegovic of Bosnia in Sarajevo before heading north to Tuzla to see American troops and Nato commanders.

The Defence Secretary played down the detention of the civilians. "We have got peace breaking out. We have got Nato on the ground. I am very optimistic that this is the beginning of a new era for Sarajevo," he said.

However, he said it was important that the issue was resolved soon. "It's very important that the police force gets in and established as soon as possible. In the meantime,

Nato's force will do what it can."

Mr Perry was referring to a 1,500-strong international police force that will patrol the area around Sarajevo. The civilian mission, which falls under the domain of Carl Bildt, the international negotiator, has lagged behind schedule, which has contributed to the confusion over the freedom of movement issue.

Mr Bildt, who arrived in the Bosnian capital yesterday, appeared to criticise Ifor for not taking a more active role in protecting civilians. He said that until the police force arrives, "it is important that all of the available resources here are used to try to secure freedom of movement".

Two British soldiers were injured when they hit a landmine while working at a hotel complex in Ilidza. They were taken to a French military hospital and a Nato spokesman said their injuries were not thought to be life-threatening. An American soldier wounded in a mine explosion in Bosnia arrived yesterday at the US military hospital in Landsstuhl, near Frankfurt.



William Perry, the American Defence Secretary, arrives in Sarajevo yesterday

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Voter sues Walesa over vow

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

Gdansk: A voter successfully sued Lech Walesa, Poland's former President, for failing to keep a 1990 election promise to grant Poles a piece of state assets.

A court instructed Mr Walesa to pay Jozef Gaweda the equivalent of £266 in compensation because he did not deliver on the pledge. A Justice Ministry spokesman said the case only went against Mr Walesa because he chose to ignore it, and did not anticipate a flood of similar claims. (AFP)

Bomb attack on French buildings

Arnhem: A bomb rocked the French honorary consulate and a French bank in this Dutch border city in an attack that police said could be a protest against France's nuclear test programme. Nobody claimed responsibility for the attack, which took place shortly before midnight on Tuesday. Nor was anyone hurt in the incident. (AFP)

Papandreou's kidneys harmed

Athens: Andreas Papandreou, 76, the Greek Prime Minister, who is in his seventh week in a critical condition in hospital, has suffered heavy damage to his kidneys, the latest medical bulletin said. He has been undergoing kidney dialysis for more than a month and is being kept alive by a life-support machine. (Reuters)

Daughter killed under snowman

Zurich: A Swiss toddler, two, suffocated when her father accidentally buried her beneath a snowman he was building for children in a playground, officials said. "My husband did not see her as he made the snowman," the mother said. The child had apparently fallen asleep. (AP)

Veiled threat

Nairobi: The Kenyan Government will allow Muslim women to wear their veils in photographs for new national identity cards after they threatened a boycott if obliged to be portrayed without them. The Nation reported. (AFP)

Wardens renew war on streets of Paris

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

THE bitter and long-running battle between the motorists and traffic wardens of Paris resumed with a vengeance yesterday after city authorities announced that parking restrictions, suspended because of the recent strikes, were now officially back in operation.

For more than a month Parisians have revelled in parking anarchy, leaving their cars exactly where they want, ignoring meters and double-parking with impunity. The paralysing transport strike, which began on November 30, forced thousands of commuters to drive to work, and with the vast increase in traffic the Paris authorities had no choice but to ease the city's draconian parking rules and call off the tow-trucks.

The strike ended on December 18, but in an unlikely act of generosity the police agreed to extend the suspension until after the new year holiday. For those motorists forced to sit in endless traffic jams, the lifting of most parking restrictions was one of the few bright points in an otherwise wholly nasty experience.

But yesterday the interlude of "laissez-faire" parking came to an abrupt halt. "No more indulgence!" declared a headline in *Le Parisien* newspaper.

For the last few days traffic wardens have been on a war footing, leaving green tickets on car windscreens threatening dire punishment for those who continue to park illegally.

The wardens are traditionally known as "perwenches" (periwinkles) on account of their blue uniforms. Last year the old uniform was replaced with a glamorous dark blue outfit, earning them the new, but no more affectionate, sobriquet of "marinettes", the navy blue girls.

On average Paris traffic wardens hand out tickets at the rate of 16 every minute, amounting to a staggering eight million fines every year. During December the city of Paris forfeited more than 56 million francs (£7.4 million) in lost meter receipts and unenforced parking fines.

Meanwhile, the *Vigipirate* anti-terrorist operation remains in force, as a magistrate found to her cost on New Year's Eve when she parked in front of a Paris police station. An anti-terrorist unit blew up her vehicle, thinking a packet of foie gras inside it was a bomb.

Germany proclaims Nazi victims day

BY OLIVER AUGUST

GERMANY is to have an annual day of remembrance for the victims of Nazism. President Herzog said yesterday. The date, January 27, is the anniversary of the liberation in 1945 of the Auschwitz death camp where more than a million people, mostly Jews, died in gas chambers.

"Our remembrance must not end. It must be a warning to future generations to be watchful," Herr Herzog said. "That is why it is now important to find a form of remem-

brance which will extend into the future. It should express sorrow for suffering and loss, be dedicated to remembering the victims and counteract any danger of a repetition."

January 27 will not be a holiday, but is aimed at schoolchildren, who will spend the day researching the Holocaust. The Central Council of Jews welcomed the remembrance day and urged other members of the European Union to follow the example.

Dole plea to end budget shutdown splits Republicans

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICANS openly split for the first time yesterday as House members of the House of Representatives rejected a vote by their more moderate Senate colleagues temporarily to reopen the Government while talks to resolve the budget deadlock continue.

The White House pounced on the news, blaming the House Republican leadership for the deeply unpopular shutdown that yesterday stretched into a record-breaking nineteenth day and is now causing obvious hardship to millions of Americans. Mike McCurry, President Clinton's spokesman, dubbed Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, and two of his fellow House leaders "the gruesome group" because "it's gruesome what they're doing to the federal workforce and to the American people".

Mr Clinton met Mr Gingrich and Robert Dole, the Senate leader, on Tuesday evening, and they were meeting again last night but, despite a small concession on capital gains tax by Mr Clinton, a swift resolution of the crisis still seemed distant.

Nine government departments and many other agencies are closed. More than 750,000 federal employees are laid off or working without pay — and that is just the tip of

the iceberg. Thousands of small contractors dependent on the Government are in financial difficulty, and government loans to new small businesses have ceased.

In addition, more than 1,000 export licence applications from high-tech companies are languishing in the Commerce Department, and 120,000 passport applications have piled up at the Passport Office. National economic statistics

It's gruesome what the Republicans are doing to Americans

are not being compiled and environmental programmes have ended.

The meals-on-wheels service for 600,000 elderly people is in imminent danger of closure, while California is losing \$5 million (£3.2 million) a day from tourism; every other state with national parks is suffering in a similar way.

Abroad, up to 30,000 visa applications a day are going unprocessed and airlines are complaining about lost busi-

ness. The Washington Post reported that Vietnam had threatened to cut off electricity to the American Embassy because it has not paid a \$1,500 bill. Even the man who hauls water to the embassy in Cuba has refused to make further deliveries until he is paid.

The Republican rift was precipitated by Mr Dole, who unexpectedly ordered the Senate vote on Tuesday night after declaring that "enough is enough... People have been gone from their jobs long enough. I don't see any sense to what we've been doing."

Mr Dole, the favourite to win the Republican presidential nomination later this year, fears that the deeply unpopular shutdown is undermining his strongest suit, his ability to get things done, so damaging his White House prospects. However Mr Gingrich doubted that the House would even vote on the Senate measure yesterday. His spokesman said: "You'd never get the votes to pass it."

And John Boehner, head of the House Republican conference, formed a zero with his fingers when asked what chance there was that the House would support the Senate. "We want action, we want it now and we are going to stay the course," he said.

Texans rush to pack a pistol

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A NEW law giving Texans the right to carry a concealed gun has proved immediately popular. By yesterday more than 170,000 gun owners had requested forms for permits.

State officials estimate that eventually nearly 250,000 of the state's 12 million people over 21 will be licensed to bear hidden arms. Ronnie Foster, manager of a Houston chemical laboratory who received one of the first permits, said that whether he would carry his gun would depend on where he was going and how

late he would be out. "The opportunities to use a gun will probably be extremely low, if any," he said. "But if it is only one that saves my life, that's plenty". Others see the new law as a dim-witted throw-back to frontier justice. It overturns a ban on concealed weapons that had lasted a hundred years since the end of the Civil War.

Even a state senator who helped to write the law admits he always carried a concealed weapon for personal safety. As the old saying goes, guns are pretty much the state flower of Texas. They are in half of all households and an average of

nine people a day die from gunshots in the state. The law was signed with gusto by George W. Bush, the staunchly law-and-order Governor of Texas and eldest son of the former President. He said the "self-protection act" would make Texas safer.

A concealed weapon is not much of a fashion statement, but women have been advised about fitting small revolvers into handbags. Men are said to favour the Colt .45 or Smith and Wesson .357 Magnum. The Dallas Morning News has recalled Mae West's line: "Is that a pistol in your pocket, or are you just glad to see me?"



Monarch butterflies cling to leaves in the aftermath of a snowstorm that hit the mountainous region of western Mexico, killing an estimated 20 million of the insects. Every year, in one of nature's remarkable migrations, the distinctive orange and black butterflies fly 3,000 miles south from their summer home in the Great Lakes states of Canada and the northern United States to escape freezing temperatures (David Adams writes).

The arctic weather in Mexico has also caused three state governments to declare a state of alert, it was reported yesterday. Worst hit was the northern state of Chihuahua

Butterflies fly to doom in snow

— where 59 people were reported to have died — Baja California and Veracruz.

In the thick evergreen mountain forests of Michoacan, to the west of Mexico City, the monarch butterflies normally find a temperate

climate. Despite snowfalls every four or five years, the monarchs always return. The snow that began falling at the weekend is believed to have killed between 10 and 30 per cent of the colony.

In the last big chill, in February 1992, when an estimated 70 per cent of the butterflies were killed, they bred well in the spring.

Nixon's nemesis joins critics of film biography

OLIVER STONE'S film biography of Richard Nixon was criticised further yesterday — by one of the journalists who uncovered the Watergate scandal and by an aide jailed for his part in the affair.

Oliver Stone, the film director, is still in thrall to the conspiracy theories of his student days, writes Giles Whittell

Tendentious and more than three hours long, the film has been condemned by the former President's family and by his former aides. American critics and cinema-goers have reached a similar verdict: it is a grave distortion of history and only barely digestible as a piece of entertainment.

While Sir Anthony Hopkins has been praised for his brave stab at portraying a man possessed by inner demons, his creation, by all accounts, bears little relation to the real Nixon, who died barely a year ago.

Bob Woodward, one of the two Washington Post reporters who uncovered the Watergate scandal that destroyed the Nixon presidency, wrote in the same paper: "As best as I can tell, about half the movie is based on facts. The other half ranges from sound speculation to borderline slander."

Another man in a position to know "history has suffered a serious compression fracture" in Nixon. In the film, an increasingly deranged President is seldom seen without a

whisky tumbler and always calls his wife "Buddy". In fact he drank little while in the White House and never used the nickname, according to John Ehrlichman, who worked closely with Nixon for 15 years and was jailed for his role in Watergate.

The film's most serious distortion, and a give-away that Mr Stone is still in thrall to the conspiracy theories of his student days, is its suggestion that President Nixon was in some way linked to the murder of John F. Kennedy.

This recurring theme has prompted a tirade from Nixon's daughters, who say it renders the entire film "illegitimate" and a letter of sym-

thy and shame from Diane Disney Miller, Walt Disney's daughter, who wrote to the Nixons last week apologising that her father's company had agreed to distribute the film.

Mr Ehrlichman mocked Mr Stone's stated aim of enhancing Americans' understanding of their most notorious leader. Specifically, he tackles the thorny issue of 18½ minutes of blanked-out tape from one of the President's hundreds of recorded Oval Office conversations. If it could be heard, the silent tape would spell out a mysterious link between Nixon, the Cuban Bay of Pigs fiasco and the JFK assassination, Mr Stone implies.

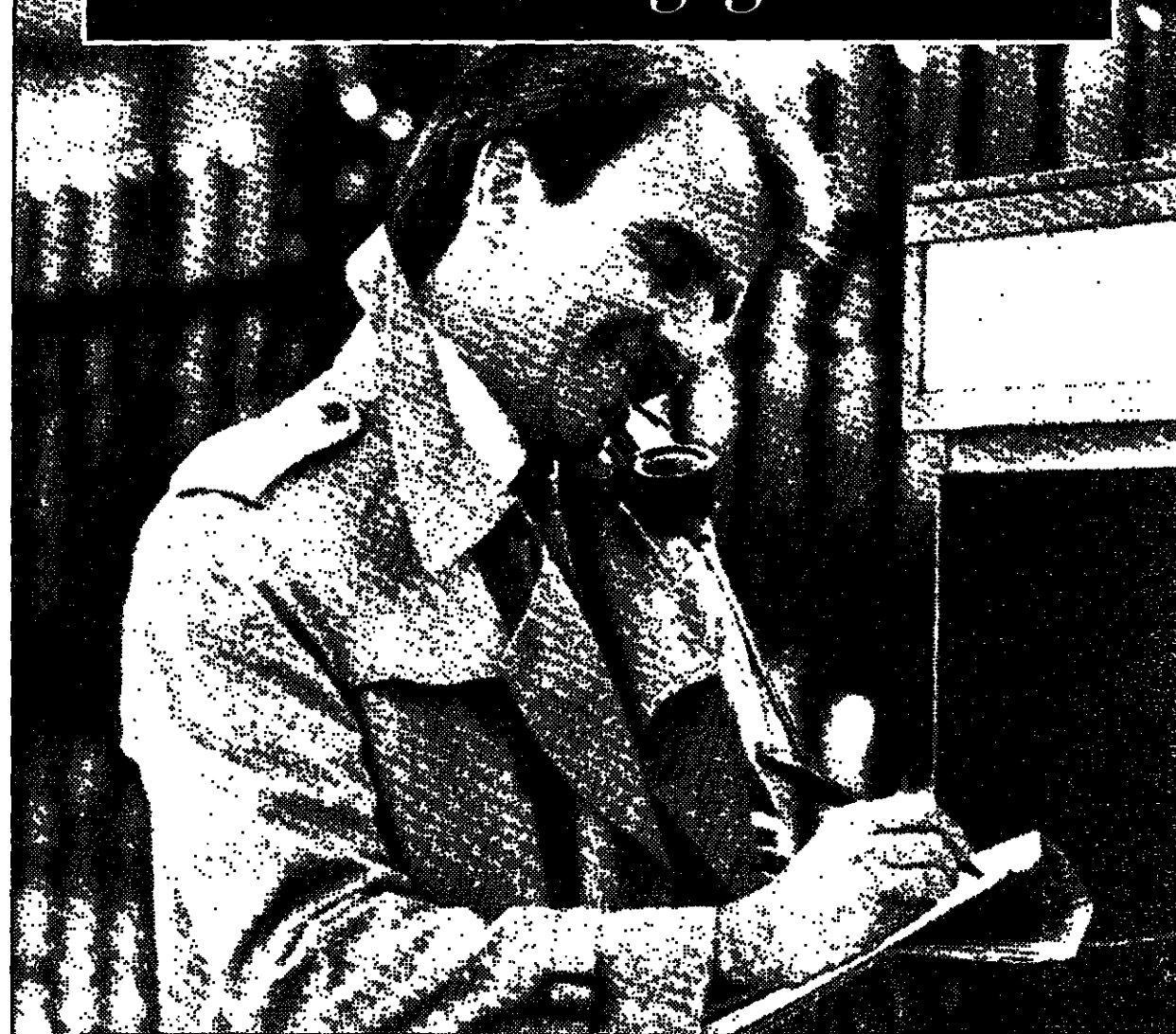
The film also depicts Mr Ehrlichman and his fellow aide, H.R. Haldeman, discussing the President's fixation with the assassination. But "he and I said nothing of the kind, then or ever," the real Mr Ehrlichman writes.

The feuding might never have resurfaced had the director not gone out of his way to bolster his film's alleged authenticity. It opens with a plea that Nixon is a "dramatic interpretation".

However, the fact that Oliver Stone believes his every insinuation is clear from the long footnotes to his 127-page screenplay, published with the film, and from his pointed observation at the end that only 40 of the 6,000 Nixon White House tapes have been made public.

As critics wrestle with the ethics of playing fast and loose with history for the sake of a film, the film's problems are only just beginning: barely noticed in the furor is the fact that audiences do not seem to be rushing to see it.

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Rwandan troops threaten to seize aid medicines

By EYE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

EUROPEAN aid workers were facing a showdown last night with Rwandan troops who have invaded their compound in the capital, Kigali, and threatened to carry off vehicles and medicines worth hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Fifteen Spanish, Belgian and Dutch employees of the medical charity, Médecins Sans Frontières, were locked in a stand-off with soldiers of the Tutsi-dominated Government, who have already stolen £300,000 of equipment from the compound, according to the aid agency. "So far there has been no violence," an official of the charity said in London. "The troops are just sitting around."

The incursion into the compound marks a new low in relations between the Rwandan Government and foreign aid agencies. The regime expelled the French arm of Médecins Sans Frontières last month with representatives of 30 other non-governmental organisations working in the country.

Frances Stevenson, who is in charge of the Médecins Sans Frontières compound in Kigali, was in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, last night. She said the soldiers inside the compound obviously planned "to try to take the remaining vehicles belonging to the French section".

The Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Government has become increasingly critical of foreign aid workers, who spend twice as much in a year as most Rwandans earn in a year on helping mostly Hutu refugees. The Rwandan Government al-

so accuses France of having backed the regime of President Habyarimana, a Hutu, who died when his aircraft was shot down over Kigali on April 6, 1994, precipitating the civil war in which Hutu extremists slaughtered more than half a million men, women and children.

The French Médecins Sans Frontières staff expelled from Rwanda said last month that one reason behind their expulsion may be that they had said "thousands" died when troops of the Tutsi-dominated army fired into Hutu refugees at the Kibeho displaced persons' camp last April. The Government put the death toll there at 300 and the United Nations came up with a figure of "approximately 2,000" after UN troops had said earlier

that they had counted about 5,000 corpses.

Philippe Biberson, the head of Médecins Sans Frontières-France, said in Paris yesterday that he feared that "silence could reinforce a regime of terror" in Rwanda, where clashes are still taking place between Hutus and Tutsis. "We fear that the only organisations authorised to remain are those that keep silent," M. Biberson said. "Every day, our teams heard accounts which demonstrated a climate of fear among the population."

Médecins Sans Frontières-France has also spoken out against a massacre by soldiers at the northwestern village of Kanama and against horrific overcrowding in prisons.

Yesterday's stand-off at the Kigali compound came as a French lawyer and director of legal affairs for Médecins Sans Frontières criticised the Rwandan Government and the international community for failing to resurrect the justice system in Rwanda and hold trials of those accused of genocide during the bloodbath two years ago. Françoise Saulnier says that the country's growing prison population — now 58,000 — has no hope of a fair trial in the foreseeable future because of UN bureaucracy and the climate of fear in Rwanda.

Mme Saulnier, whose campaign to bring justice to the country features in a BBC2 television programme, *Assignment*, on Saturday at 7.20pm, also claims that the Rwandan Defence Ministry has appropriated most of the equipment and funds allocated to the Justice Ministry.



Saulnier: condemned the lack of justice



Richard Ralph, the Governor-designate of the Falklands, tries on his ceremonial hat in London yesterday. The full uniform is seen below

Governorship is feather in one's cap

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

RICHARD RALPH called on a Savile Row tailor yesterday for the final fittings for his broadsword and plumed hat. The colonial Governor's uniform, the stuff of a thousand cartoons and anti-imperialist demonstrations, can now be worn by only five men in the world. Governors of Britain's tiny dependent territories.

Mr Ralph, 49, is looking forward to the first time he can don what must be one of the world's more comical pieces of headgear: on Monday he will be sworn in as Governor of the Falklands. And at the end of the month he will again be in full

plumage to receive the Princess Royal. A former Ambassador to Latvia, he has been promoted from Her Majesty's plenipotentiary in a country of 27 million to the lone representative in Port Stanley, capital of a community of some 2,000 souls. There is no irony in the promotion: Mr Ralph's new job is one of the most politically charged, sensitive and vital in the Diplomatic Service. The Falklands are on the brink of extraordinary change that could transform the windswept archipelago into the Kuwait of the South Atlantic. Oil exploration, soon

to begin after Britain's crucial agreement with Argentina opened the way to drilling in seas whose sovereignty remains undecided, may bring untold wealth, as well as hundreds of immigrants, to the islands.

More immediately sensitive, however, is the still vexed issue of relations with Argentina. Mr Ralph, innocent of any experience in either country, insisted, in an interview with *The Times*, that though Britain's relations with Buenos Aires were warming rapidly, the islands' sovereignty is simply not for discussion. The greater danger is that

in his other role — representing the islanders to the Government — he will go native. "But that is always the danger of any diplomat," he admitted. He will be a visible and public figure in Port Stanley, and acknowledged that both he and his wife will have to leave privacy in the bottom drawer for three years.

Mr Ralph flies out tomorrow — complete with hat. At upwards of £500, it is interchangeable only with the one worn by Lord Waddington in Bermuda and comes courtesy of the Foreign Office. There is little demand for them nowadays.



Ashe widow joins row over statue

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE widow of Arthur Ashe, who was the first black to win the Wimbledon men's singles, has joined critics objecting to his statue being placed among Confederate heroes in Richmond, Virginia, where as a child he was banned from whites-only tennis courts.

Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe has declared that Ashe was told the statue would be put beside his dream project, a proposed African-American Sports Hall of Fame. Writing in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, Mrs Ashe said she did not oppose putting the statue on Richmond's Monument Avenue for racial or political reasons, but because it would honour the former Confederate capital rather than Ashe's life work. However, when Ashe died in 1993 from Aids contracted through a blood transfusion, he had been reconciled with Richmond and agreed to be buried there.

Hold the front page for Socrates' trial

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

PERHAPS the most peculiar newspaper in the United States is a tabloid that specialises in headlines that are not just days, but often centuries, out of date. *Old News* has built a circulation of some 34,000 paying subscribers with a diet of torrid news drawn not from the contemporary world, but from history.

Venetian inquisitors arrest Casanova, screams one headline from 1755. "Greek philosopher faces death penalty" is how the organ flags the trial of Socrates in 399BC. "King of England tried for treason", it reports with a dateline of 1649. The "newspaper" was founded in 1989 by the Bromer family, who had tried unsuccessfully to run an ordinary local newspaper after retiring to the Pennsylvania countryside from Manhattan.

Dr Richard Bromer, a psychologist, and his wife, Nancy, a qualified librarian, had originally tried to increase the readership of their *Susque-*

hanna Times by including more local history. Readers responded, but there just was not enough local history to write about. The family branched out into other eras and other areas of the world, setting an arbitrary news blackout on anything that happened after 1930.

Now published from the family's farmhouse, *Old News* is written by Mr and Mrs Bromer, their three children and five grandchildren, and appears nine times a year. Carrying a list of historical sources for its stories and no advertising, the newspaper has become a particular hit among teachers.

The articles sometimes prompt unexpected inquiries. The Bromers say, for instance, that they received a request for one back issue from the descendants of Dr Harvey Hawley Crippen, the British murderer who killed his wife in London in 1910 and buried her in his cellar.

Energy booster puts ostriches on road to healthier lifestyle

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN CAPE TOWN

OSTRICH farmers in South Africa have turned to a nutritional supplement developed to combat fatigue in humans in an attempt to prevent the birds dying from stress-related illnesses.

A father-and-son medical team, working with researchers at the University of Potchefstroom, recently developed an energy-enhancing compound, carnesium. Although it was originally intended for human use, they now claim it will create a breakthrough in ostrich farming.

"It also enables the birds to produce more energy and resist illnesses. They are less likely to die suddenly," said Henry Davis, who pioneered the use of carnesium on ostriches with his 79-year-old father William. "This is going to make a great impact."

The farming of ostriches, although potentially lucrative, is fraught with risk: as the creatures are notoriously prone to disease and suffer high levels of stress that are frequently fatal. Heavy rains that recently fell in South Africa killed thousands of ostriches in the Western Cape, the main farming area.

The animals are particularly prone to air sac infections (the equivalent of bronchitis) when they are in close proximity in new battery-style farms. Carnesium, which includes



Ostriches — feeling the strain in a stressful life

amino acids and magnesium, has been patented in Europe and the United States. State veterinarians in the Cape are recommending its use to farmers, who report favourable initial results.

With an estimated 800 farms, South Africa has more ostriches than any other country. Some are used for racing, while about 120,000 are slaughtered each year for hides, feathers, and low-cholesterol meat.

The ostrich trade in South Africa dates from the 17th century, when Dutch settlers exchanged the birds for tobacco and sent 12 of them as a gift to the Emperor of Japan.

Gavin Kanigowski, who owns an ostrich farm in Milnerton, near Cape Town, said: "When my birds get stressed out they run up and the fence and pull each other's feathers out. Bald birds are not much use when you are trying to sell their feathers."

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recovery in manufacturing

must be sure, I



ANATOLE KALETSKY 27
1996 could rejoice
in return of the
'feel-good' factor



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Solzhenitsyn



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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY JANUARY 4 1996

Morgan Stanley faces legal action over collapse of \$120m fund

Bank accused of negligence by investors

By JON ASHWORTH

MORGAN STANLEY, the investment bank, is being sued for "gross negligence" by investors caught up in the collapse of a \$120 million fund that operated from London and Luxembourg.

The action raises questions about internal controls at the firm, which last year received a record fine in London for breaches of regulatory rules.

It is an embarrassment also for Sir David Walker, chairman of Morgan Stanley Group (Europe), who is past chairman of the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the supreme City regulator. Sir David was chairman-designate at the time of the collapse, and is responsible for operations in both London and Luxembourg.

Morgan Stanley publishes its latest financial results today. Investors in several countries borrowed heavily to invest in The Global Opportunity Fund, an offshore umbrella fund that relied, in part, on derivatives to provide growth potential with minimum risk.

Morgan Stanley Banque Luxembourg acted as administrator and custodian, and provided monthly valuations. Morgan Stanley International in London loaned investors up to \$34 million in mid-1994, allowing them to boost their holdings. It also made a

wards the end of 1994 rapidly drained resources. The fund collapsed in February last year, and only about \$26 million in cash remained once holdings were liquidated.

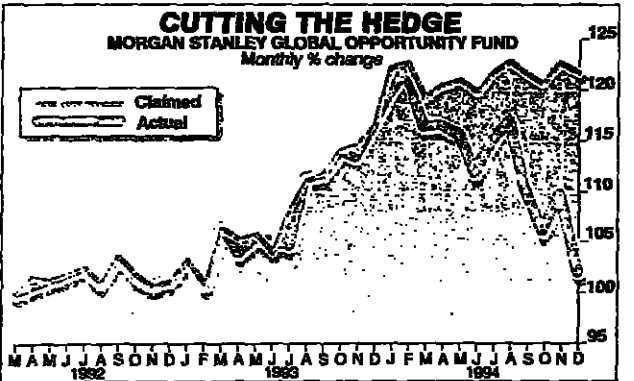
Geoffrey de Sibert, the former Kleinwort Benson broker who managed the fund, subsequently left the UK and is understood to be in California.

About 20 investors have joined forces in an attempt to press Morgan Stanley for compensation. They have appointed lawyers in Luxembourg and London, called in a financial investigations agency, and hired a public relations firm to co-ordinate the campaign. Rakisons, the London-based law firm, is acting for investors in the UK.

A writ was issued in Luxembourg last month, accusing Morgan Stanley of "gross negligence".

A court hearing is scheduled to take place in Luxembourg tomorrow. Investors allege losses of up to \$70 million, although the writ cites a figure of \$44 million.

Morgan Stanley said: "We believe the claim is without merit. We intend to defend this case vigorously." The firm is expected to argue that it was the victim of a forged valuation, submitted by a third party and accepted in good faith.



The identity of the investors have not been disclosed, but many are understood to be of Middle Eastern origin. Investors in America and Europe are also involved; as are a couple of banks.

A spokesman for one investor who lost more than \$15 million in the collapse, said: "This was sold as something where you preserve capital. The money was safe. Next thing we heard the fund had collapsed. To this day, nobody has told us what happened after January 1995."



Sir David Walker: in charge of the investment bank's operations in London and Luxembourg

Railtrack targets small investors

By MELVYN MARCUS
CITY EDITOR

THE Government's £15 billion-£2 billion privatisation of Railtrack, the owner and operator of the UK's national rail network, will take place in May accompanied by strong incentives to attract private investors.

The message from the Government yesterday was that at least 30 per cent of Railtrack's equity will be offered to private investors. More shares will be made available to the public should demand outstrip supply.

Sir George Young, Secretary of State for Transport, flagged the flotation with news that shares will be sold to institutional investors via an international tender offer, based on a "book-building" exercise under which prospective investors indicate what they are prepared to pay.

The UK offer to private investors will be at a discount to the price struck for the international offer. Payment for Railtrack shares will be made in two instalments — in separate tax years — and the discount for private investors will be reflected in a lower first instalment price.

The crucial factor in the sale of Railtrack, led by Robert Horton, the chairman, will be the level of debt, currently £1.7 billion, that the company comes to market with. There were no indications of the Treasury's thinking on this yesterday.

The Government line is that at least 51 per cent of Railtrack's equity will be offered but, with the Labour Party strongly opposed to rail privatisation, City analysts expect all of Railtrack's equity to be floated.

Sir George emphasised the importance of share shops, which will have an exclusive role in collecting registrations for the UK public offer.

Private investors will have to register with a share shop to be eligible for incentives and preferential allocation. Registration will start in March and will be accompanied by a near £4 million marketing campaign designed to promote the offer and the role of share shops.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	2715.6	(+27.7)
Yield	3.86%	
FT-SE All share	1015.96	(+12.18)
Nikkei	1015.96	Closed
New York		
Dow Jones	5196.60	(+19.15)
S&P Composite	622.22	(+1.49)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	6 1/4%	(6%)
Long Bond	112 1/4%	(112 1/4%)
Yield	5.96%	(5.97%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
Life long gilt	110 1/2%	(110 1/2%)
Future (Mar)	110 1/2%	(110 1/2%)
STERLING		
New York	1.5820	(1.5845)
London		
\$	1.5517	(1.5535)
DM	2.2258	(2.2318)
FF	7.6220	(7.6245)
SP	1.7995	(1.7979)
Yen	161.89	(161.40)
£ Index	83.4	(83.5)
DOLLAR		
London		
DM	1.4403	(1.4371)
FF	4.9175	(4.9060)
SP	1.1998	(1.1980)
Yen	104.33	(103.91)
\$ Index	94.3	(94.1)
Tokyo close Yen Closed		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Mar)	\$18.05	(\$18.05)
GOLD		
London close	\$383.65	(\$383.65)
* denotes midday trading price		

Granada may delay response

By ERIC REGULY

GRANADA may wait till Monday or Tuesday instead of making what it calls a "shotgun" response to Forte's surprisingly robust defence document.

Shares in the Savoy Hotel group fell 10.3 per cent, from £10.48 to 94p, yesterday in the wake of Forte's announcement that it intends to distribute its 68 per cent equity interest to Forte shareholders. It had been hoped that Forte would sell the Savoy stake to a single investor, but since it lacks voting control of Savoy, it could not get a takeover premium.

Granada, whose hostile bid is worth about £3.2 billion, wants to publish a critique of Forte's defence, and a breakdown of how it would add £100 million to Forte's annual profit, when it launches the revised bid.

Analysts say Granada must bid at least 10 per cent more. Its cash offer is worth 32.7p. Forte shares remained 34p; Granada shares rose 7p to 64 1/2p.

Fragile recovery in UK manufacturing

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH manufacturing activity last month recovered slightly from the minor contraction recorded in November, but growth remained fragile and uneven, according to The Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply.

City analysts generally concluded that the case for further base rate cuts this spring, to follow the quarter point announced on December 13, remains intact. The Purchasing Managers' Index, compiled by the Institute, rose to 50.7 from 49.9 in November.

The Institute said that December's reading suggested that growth was marginal and that the buoyancy seen in the first half of last year has disappeared. Peter Thomson, Director-General of the institute, said: "This is rather sobering news for the start of 1996. Productivity is healthy but demand is static as many firms use existing stocks to meet sales."

The output index rose to 53.3 in December, the highest since April last year. But the Institute said the fragility of this growth was highlighted by a deterioration in order books for the second month in a row. More positively, the Institute's figures showed that inflationary pressures in industry remain subdued. The prices index fell for the second month in a row.

Britain's underlying official reserves fell by \$36 million in December.

Shipyard bribes man jailed

By ROBERT MILLER

A DUTCH national who earned £100,000 a year from Exxon has been sentenced to three years in prison for taking more than £1 million in bribes from Keppel Shipyard in Singapore.

Cornelis Van der Horst, 54, yesterday pleaded guilty at Southampton Crown Court to three specimen charges of corruption after a seven-month investigation by the Serious Fraud Office and Hampshire police. The charges related to £500,000, although Van der Horst, a marine engineer, admitted accepting £1.6 million in bribes for favouring Keppel in the bidding process for ship repair contracts.

The successful SFO prosecution, led by Michael Drury, centred on events that took place after Petroleum Shipping Ltd (PSL) moved to Southampton from The Netherlands in September 1994. PSL, which is responsible for the management and repair of Exxon's worldwide tanker fleet, put out a tender for three ships — SS Hawaii, MV Westport and MV Nassau. In the four years to 1995, every contract was awarded to Keppel, in which the Singapore Government has a stake.

When SS Hawaii became the 27th ship in a row to be awarded to Keppel, PSL's senior management became suspicious and launched an internal investigation. Executives visited Keppel and other Singapore shipyards whose bids had been unsuccessful in the past. Their view, and that of PSL, was that Van der Horst was favouring Keppel and providing them with privileged information in relation to competing bids. Thereafter, Van der Horst's telephone calls were monitored and recorded in May 1995.

In his defence, Van der Horst, who said that 80 per cent of his salary went to his family in Holland and 20 per cent to his Malaysian girlfriend, claimed he "had some bad feelings" about how his employer had treated him in the past and he wanted revenge.

The bribe money was credited to a bank account in Singapore, from which the rent for his girlfriend's apartment was paid. Mr Drury of the SFO said: "Van der Horst's £100,000 salary wasn't enough for him. His greedy and selfish behaviour led to a gross breach of his position of trust."

You must be sure, Maxwell trial jury told

By JON ASHWORTH



Ian Maxwell and his wife, Laura, arriving at the court yesterday

JURORS in the Maxwell trial were told they had to be sure that the accused deliberately and dishonestly put pension funds at risk before convicting them. Suspicion alone was not enough.

Lord Justice Phillips, beginning his summing-up in the trial of Kevin and Ian Maxwell and Larry Trachtenberg, a former Maxwell adviser, told the seven women and five men that all three had been directors of Bishopsgate Investment Management (BIM), which administered the Maxwell pension funds. As such, they had a duty to administer the funds for the benefit of pensioners and future

pensioners. The judge said: "As directors, each had a duty to keep the pension funds safe. The prosecution say they broke that duty not negligently which would not be a crime, but as a result of a deliberate agreement to take part in conduct which they knew would put those funds at substantial risk and which they knew was not honest thereby committing the crime of conspiracy to defraud. You have to decide where the truth lies."

He added that there were those who said it was not a good idea for juries to try fraud cases because it was difficult for 12 ordinary men and women from various walks of life to understand what went on in the City. He said the one great quality juries could bring was common sense.

The judge went on to tell the jurors that it was not enough to prove guilt if they considered the evidence was more likely than not to show fraud — "you can only convict if you are sure". He told the jurors to reach verdicts purely on the evidence heard in court.

Kevin, 36, denies conspiring with his father, the late Robert Maxwell, to defraud pensioners of shares worth £100 million in Scltex Corporation. With his brother, Ian, 39, and Larry Trachtenberg, 42, he also denies conspiring to defraud pensioners of a further £22 million of shares in Teva. The trial was adjourned until today.

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City expects Liverpool Vic to hit acquisition trail

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

LIVERPOOL Victoria Friendly Society, the 150-year-old mutual life insurer, is believed to be close to acquiring a banking or insurance business.

The society, which has assets of more than £3 billion, yesterday denied that it was the subject of a takeover bid and issued a statement saying that it was not aware that any other party was preparing to launch a bid. "LVFS states it is not in discussion with any other party concerning a takeover bid for the

society, nor is it aware of any other party preparing to launch a bid for the society," the statement said.

However, an industry source claimed that the society had been in negotiations for several weeks with a view to making a purchase, and was close to announcing that it was expanding into banking or insurance.

Last year, the Liverpool Vic, the largest of the friendly societies, was rumoured to be interested in buying the UK-quoted financial services group London and Manchester. The City now believes that the society

wants to acquire interests in general insurance business.

The society, whose business is based on door-to-door collection of premiums in the north of England, could use its client base of two million to expand into other services.

The mutual status of many building societies and friendly societies is under threat as organisations merge or are taken over. Banks and other financial institutions can pay big bonuses to woe society members.

The Liverpool Vic's statement said that it intended to use its free reserves "in the best interests of our

policyholders". It denied intending to move away from its traditional client base, saying: "The society remains totally committed to its members and to the traditions of home service on which the society has been built."

Analysts suggested yesterday that National Westminster Bank, which has just sold its Bancorp subsidiary in the US, or the Prudential could be keen buyers. Neither would comment.

One analyst said: "If the Liverpool Vic feels it would be less vulnerable by restructuring, then buying new

business or merging with a fellow society might be the answer. It is the largest player in its market and has lots of spare cash."

David Cheeseman, corporate strategy manager with Liverpool Vic, refused to comment on whether a merger with another society was imminent, but said that he was interested in "expanding our range of services for our members". He added: "Those services might include banking or insurance — we already sell general insurance — but such a move is still at a research stage."

Boeing and Airbus fight to clinch \$1.8bn deal

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE and its arch-rival Boeing of America are locked in a last-minute battle to secure a \$1.8 billion order for long-range aircraft from Malaysian Airline System (MAS).

The contract, which was to have been announced today, has been deferred to allow the manufacturers to fine-tune their proposals.

Reports from Malaysia suggest that Boeing is likely to receive a \$1.6 billion contract for ten 747 aircraft. But the Seattle-based aircraft manufacturer is also keen to sell 15 of its new sub-jumbo wide-bodies, the 777, to MAS.

The deal is being fiercely contested by Airbus, which is jointly owned by British Aerospace, Aérospatiale of France,

Dasa of Germany and Casa of Spain. Airbus is offering its four-engine A340 plane instead of the Boeing twin-jet.

The European consortium is particularly keen to keep its strong position as a supplier to MAS, which is expanding fast to cope with rising traffic levels to and from Pacific Asia. MAS bought its first Airbus aircraft in 1978 and has just taken delivery of its tenth A330, a twin-engine sister to the A340.

The struggle to win the MAS order reflects intense competition between Boeing and its European rival, which has secured around 30 per cent of the world civil jet market and is now threatening to make inroads into Boeing's 50 per cent share.

Yesterday, Airbus clinched a \$580 million order for nine A321-200 single-aisle, short to medium-range twin-jets from GATX Capital Corporation, the American leasing company.

The contract came alongside figures for 1995 showing that Airbus sold \$9.6 billion of aircraft last year, generating revenues of almost \$2 billion for BAE, which builds the wings.

In total, Airbus delivered 124 aircraft to 30 customers last year. It took 106 new orders, worth \$7 billion, bringing its order backlog to 578 aircraft worth \$46.4 billion.

But thanks to the launch of its new 777 and the success of its relaunched 737 series, Boeing made up a lot of ground in the sales battle last year, securing 261 firm orders.



Celebrating, Duncan MacGillivray, left, and Richard Purdey, chairman of Merrydown

Cider firm to swap stake in Two Dogs

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

MERRYDOWN, the cider maker, is close to announcing a share swap with Two Dogs, the Australian alcoholic lemonade maker, in a move to cement the relationship between the two companies.

Merrydown, which manufactures and distributes Two Dogs under licence in the UK, is planning to take a 10 per cent stake in Two Dogs later this year in exchange for the Australian company taking a 10 per cent stake in Merrydown.

Two Dogs is also planning to float on the Australian Stock Exchange in the second half of this year to raise A\$36 million (£17.2 million), giving Merrydown the opportunity to buy further shares in the company.

Duncan MacGillivray, the managing director of Two Dogs, who holds a 73 per cent stake in the group, said yesterday that Merrydown would be given priority to take up further shares. He said that virtually all the money raised by the float will go into equity stakes in the companies that distribute Two Dogs.

The group has already taken a one-sixth stake in Next Generation Marketing Inc, which distributes Two Dogs in the US.

Mr MacGillivray, who created Two Dogs two years ago after deciding to brew an orchard of non-saleable lemons, said: "As opportunities arise we want to have the cash to take equity. We want to get out there and spend now and keep our expansion going at the rate it is."

Worldwide sales of Two Dogs are expected to reach A\$100 million this year.

Merrydown shares fell 7p to 107p yesterday.

Tempos, page 26

Lorry sales 'ahead 17%

SALES of lorries in Britain are set to level out this year after strong growth in 1995, according to Leyland DAF (Ross Tieman writes).

David Gilchrist, managing director, said that figures from the Society of British Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT), due out tomorrow, are likely to show total sales of 52,300 lorries, up 17 per cent on 1994.

Leyland DAF believes total truck sales in 1996 are likely to fall to between 49,000 and 54,000.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

ALLEN, ROBERT JAMES
Late of 10, Northwood Road,
Stamford, Leicestershire
died on 19 January 1995
aged 78 years.

BANKS, DEBRA ARTHUR
Late of 10, Northwood Road,
Stamford, Leicestershire
died on 19 January 1995
aged 78 years.

RECHMAN, ENA BECHMAN
Late of 10, Northwood Road,
Stamford, Leicestershire
died on 19 January 1995
aged 78 years.

CLYDE, ANNE CLYDE
Late of 10, Northwood Road,
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LEGAL NOTICES

INSOLVENCY ACT AND RULES 1986
FARMER ENGINEERING LIMITED
(IN LIQUIDATION)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 4.108 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the Liquidator of the above-named company, which is a limited company, has received from the creditors of the company a sum of £10,000.

NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above-named company, which is a limited company, are required to submit their claims to the Liquidator of the company, who is acting as Liquidator, on or before 20 January 1996.

IN THE HIGH COURT
IN BANKRUPTCY
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a petition for the winding up of the above-named company, which is a limited company, was presented to the High Court of Justice on 19 January 1995.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a petition for the winding up of the above-named company, which is a limited company, was presented to the High Court of Justice on 19 January 1995.

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LEGAL NOTICES

INSOLVENCY ACT AND RULES 1986
FARMER ENGINEERING LIMITED
(IN LIQUIDATION)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 4.108 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the Liquidator of the above-named company, which is a limited company, has received from the creditors of the company a sum of £10,000.

NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above-named company, which is a limited company, are required to submit their claims to the Liquidator of the company, who is acting as Liquidator, on or before 20 January 1996.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Liffe volumes fall in more stable trading

THE London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (Liffe) suffered a 13 per cent decline in trading volumes in 1995, to a total of 132,654,219 contracts. The average daily volume also fell 13 per cent to 526,406 contracts compared with 1994, representing an average daily turnover of £128.4 billion. Liffe said that market conditions were exceptionally volatile in 1994, while 1995 saw a return to more stable trading conditions. Volume was still higher in 1993, the exchange added.

Volume in the short sterling future declined by more than 37 per cent and gilt futures volume fell nearly 35 per cent. German government bond (Bund) futures volume was 31 per cent lower, though the contract was still the exchange's most successful. The contracts that enjoyed the fastest growth in 1995 were the Japanese government bond (JGB) future, which grew by more than 38 per cent, and the three-month Euroswiss option, which showed a 76 per cent gain. The three-month Eurodollar options contract also grew by 16 per cent. Separately, the London Commodity Exchange reported a record year for white sugar futures and options contracts, with 1995 volumes rising 21.9 per cent over 1994.

RJR vote approval

AMERICA'S Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) has given the go-ahead to a move by a group of Catholic priests to force a vote on spinning off the food from the tobacco interests of RJR Nabisco. The SEC's decision overrules an attempt by RJR to block the resolution. The decision creates an unusual alliance between the priests and two corporate raiders, Bernet Le Bow and Carl Icahn, who are also pressing for a spin-off. A vote on the spin-off may now take place at the next shareholders meeting in April.

BCCI payment 'soon'

CREDITORS of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) have been told that there will be "satisfactory" payments within three months. But Abdul Aziz Said, the receiver of the United Arab Emirates, whose estimated payment date is seen as optimistic, described as baseless reports that the nearly 40,000 UAE-based depositors would receive a payment of 40 per cent of their funds. A total of 100,000 creditors worldwide are expected to receive a payment in May or June.

Vauxhall pay progress

MEMBERS of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port factory in Cheshire voted by three to one to accept the car company's three-year pay offer. But AEEU officials are unsure if members at the Luton plant will accept the deal when they vote today. Members of the Transport and General Workers' Union at both factories will also vote on the offer of a 4.5 per cent increase in year one followed by the rate of inflation for the next two years. Vauxhall is also offering to cut an hour off the 39-hour week.

Colony growth forecast

HONG KONG should maintain its economic growth rate of 5 per cent in 1996, boosted by robust growth in China, said Donald Tsang, the colony's Financial Secretary, yesterday. Economic growth would be driven by a pick-up in consumer spending, he said, adding that no special measures would be required. "We'll leave the economy to adjust to cyclical fluctuations through market forces." There were concerns last year that the economy was slowing significantly after a fall in consumer spending and a rise in unemployment.

Liverpool Blend sale

THE first oil from Liverpool Bay in the Irish Sea is expected to flow by mid-January. Three 600,000-barrel cargoes of Liverpool Blend, a light 44-degree API crude, have been sold for delivery in northwest Europe, a spokesman for BHP Petroleum, the operators, said yesterday. The first cargo is to load in January and the other two in February. They were sold at a discount to benchmark Dated Brent, but are expected to fetch higher prices as the market becomes more familiar with the light crude.

Pilkington airport deal

PILKINGTON, the glass manufacturer, has won an order worth HK\$160 million (£13.5 million) to supply 81,000 square metres of glass for the passenger terminal building at the airport being built at Chek Lap Kok in Hong Kong. The contract for external walls, skylights and link bridges is thought to be the world's largest for architectural glass. It will be mainly supplied by Flachglas, Pilkington's German subsidiary. Pilkington Architectural in the UK will supply a structural glazing curtain walling system.

Usborne to sell division

USBORNE, the pig production and grain merchandising group, has agreed to sell Daisy Hill Pigs, its pig products division, to BOCM Pains, a subsidiary of Harrisons & Crossfield, for £7.4 million. Usborne, whose chairman is Lord Parkinson, is to concentrate on its agricultural services division, which has proved more profitable. Usborne's pig business incurred heavy losses in 1994 and remained in the red last year. The sale should yield a small profit and reduce borrowings by £5 million.

Grafton Group buys

GRAFTON GROUP, the Dublin building supplies company, continues to expand in the UK. It has acquired the builders' merchandising business of R.J. Johnson of Oxford, for £4.5 million, and the mortar business of P.P.S. Structural Services for about £1 million. Grafton is also considering the purchase of an additional business in southeast England. The group's past acquisitions in the UK include part of Lumley & Hunt and the Thrower Group in 1994. Grafton enjoyed a successful year in 1995.

Increase in use of consultants

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE use of management consultants has increased dramatically in the past five years, with 61 per cent of firms using a consultant last year, compared with 43 per cent in 1991.

But in spite of the increase, firms expressed serious reservations about the fees charged and the capacity of consultants to follow up their work. They also found it difficult to assess the abilities of consultants other than by recommendation or reputation.

The increase in recent years has been driven by the need for advice during the recession.

According to a survey of 165 directors by Thomas Clarke and Richard Bostock, of Leeds Business School, published in this month's *Financial Director* magazine, even smaller companies, with a turnover of less than £10 million, are overcoming their unwillingness to use consultants.

Tesco goes on tape to aid blind

By SARAH BAGNALL

A REQUEST by a shopper at Tesco has prompted the supermarket group to launch a customer service initiative to help Britain's one million visually impaired.

Tesco was asked by a blind customer whether it would put on tape the information that it provides in leaflets in its stores. The company agreed and has produced a cassette covering topics such as healthy eating for elderly people, and advice on additives and on allergies.

An initial issue of 50,000 tapes will be available next week through associations for the blind, and through talking newspapers.

The move is a further step in the supermarket groups' battle to differentiate themselves through customer service. Several food retailers, including Tesco and Marks & Spencer, have guides available to help blind people in some stores.

Vast changes predicted for world of work

Wait for it — the £13m wage

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH employees believe that the average salary in the UK in 100 years' time will be more than £13 million — almost 700 times current average earnings.

Such startling expectations of future salary levels come in a survey published today on the world of work in the next millennium.

In a study of a sample of more than 400 people from all over Britain, ranging from secretaries to senior managers, employees were asked by Reed, the employment agency, what their predictions were

for their own salary if they were alive in 100 years' time. The average salary predicted was just over £13.2 million.

Government figures from its annual New Earnings Survey show that current annual earnings average £19,479-£23,052 for white-collar workers and £15,147 for manual workers. Reed points out that for people currently on a salary of £15,000 a 10 per cent rise each year would lead to a salary of more than £227 million in 100 years' time.

Reed says senior managers were more modest in their

predictions than secretaries. Senior managers' average salary prediction for 2096 was £1.6 million, while one secretary predicted a personal salary of £2 billion.

Overall, the survey, titled *Workplace 2000*, suggests large-scale changes in the world of work in the next millennium, including the impact of the Internet.

Alec Reed, executive chairman of Reed, says that "old certainties" about the world of work have gone.

Pennington, page 25

CURRENCY

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	84p	84p
Canada \$	2.16	2.16
Denmark \$	16.74	16.74
France F	49.96	49.96
Germany M	2.12	2.12

□ Facts and myths of the harsh weather □ Coming clean on pensions □ Railtrack shunts towards the bargain basement

Cold comfort for water customers

□ FIRST, the scientific facts. Researchers have run numerous studies, using control groups and the most rigorous methodology, and they are united in their findings: there is no direct causal link between what you pay your local water company chairman and whether the stuff comes out of the taps.

Now a question. The recent cold snap was in no way abnormal, at least south of Hadrian's Wall, and was neither as deep nor as prolonged as in other winters. There have been three dozen or so other months this century that were colder than December, according to the Met Office. So why did so many of the water pipes and mains that had served the country since Victorian times give up the ghost?

The answer is, they didn't — the damage was extremely localised, while earlier cold spells had seen their own share of disruption. Contrary to public belief, water supplies in England and Wales are no less reliable than they were before the 1989 privatisation — in some areas, Thames Water, for example, spent £250 million on its much-vaunted ring-main around the capital and now guarantees that its customers will not even suffer hosepipe bans.

But other areas, such as Yorkshire during the drought and Northumbrian and North East

Water in the thaw, have suffered huge disruption. The water industry this winter is blaming freak weather conditions, a quick freeze and an even faster thaw, for so-called "ground shift".

Such conditions can cause enormous stresses. Geologists talk of pingos — a good Scrabble word, that — huge malformations in the rocks in tundra regions. But Canadian experts, themselves at home in the tundra, one assumes, say much of the damage here was self-inflicted, because new pipes were laid too high in the ground.

The investment records show that total spending on water rose after privatisation, only to fall more recently. Much of the money went to clean up Britain's beaches to European standards and on the instruction of Europe, not to replace outdated water mains and pipes.

Spending on infrastructure renewals fell from a high of £430 million in 1991-92 to just £310 million last year. Of this, spending on water services last year, which includes the replacement of pipes and the improvement of leakage rates, showed a small

increase on 1993-94 but was still well below the previous year.

The damage done by the cold is most pronounced in Northern Ireland, Scotland and the area served by North East — none of which has been through the privatisation process. North East is owned by a French company, as will Northumbrian be shortly. This should strengthen the case for the privatised companies, except that it is a coincidence: those areas happen to match the worst affected parts of the weather map.

December may not have been exceptional for the century, but it was, significantly, the coldest since privatisation. There is one other factor. Water companies pressed ahead on spending on clean beaches, some quite naturally holding back on running repairs on pipes that were showing only slight leakage. Others did not; Anglian spent heavily on its pipelines, was badly hit by the cold weather, but does not appear to be suffering too much disruption to service.

This is the background to this summer's drought in some areas and the loss of supply on the



thaw, after the first real cold snap to put a strain on the privatised system. You pay your money, you take your choice. The industry was forced to choose clean beaches.

The PIA's rolling disclosure

□ THE point about the Personal Investment Authority's first report on disclosure is that there will be a second and a third, and this will in the end prove to be its most effective weapon.

The PIA, unlike several of the pressure and consumer interest groups that publish updates on the health of the personal finance industry, has nothing to prove

from taking an extremist or alarmist view.

Instead, the figures are all on paper and indisputable. The PIA's claim is that the sheer immensity of its first report and the move to full disclosure of hidden costs and commissions has already helped to prompt better practice in the industry. It has now produced tables in alphabetical order showing which are the best buys and which are the worst.

The result is a broad mix, with some of the better names and some rather more obscure ones featuring at either end of the spectrum. Some of the worst suggest what might be called the "ploughman's lunch" effect: a ploughman's lunch, in marketing parlance, is an invented and bogus tradition, and many bad performers seem to have names that could have been deliberately coined to suggest some spurious reputation for long-enduring thrift.

The point is not where the names feature today, it is where they will be next year, when investors will be able to judge relative performance. There is

only one thing worse than being named as most expensive provider this year, and that is ending the year in the same slot.

Wringing of hands over rail sell-off

□ THIS column has never been a friend of the two remaining big privatisations, nuclear and rail. The tag-end of a process that was admirably successful in the 1980s but should by now have been snubbed out.

News that Railtrack is being touted heavily at the private investor suggests the Treasury may get an even worse price for it than had been feared. But by its apparent indecision the Labour Party is doing its best to lower that figure further, and so deprive the taxpayer of revenue.

If Labour is against the process, it could stop the sale of Railtrack or any other part of the railways in its, so to speak, tracks. Labour could commit itself to renationalising any such assets, so making them effectively and instantly unsaleable. If the Government were to

go ahead anyway at rock-bottom prices, buyers, whether the public, City or trade purchasers, would know they could lose those assets if the next election goes against the Tories. They could not then complain.

If Labour wants to avoid the dread R word — the party is not on the record as wanting to renationalise anything, of course — then there are any number of half-way measures with the same effect. A promise to bring an Act of Parliament preventing the payment of dividends, or one introducing a levy on the business exactly the same size as those proposed dividends, for example, would make Railtrack worthless to prospective buyers. But by standing on the track-side wringing its hands, Labour is merely forcing down the price at which the sale takes place.

Working wage

□ THE ultimate in fat catery comes from the secretary who, according to a Reed survey, is looking for a salary of £2 billion in 2006. The average wage now will buy a top of the range saloon car. Compound growth rates of 5 per cent a year would push this into areas undreamt of by the privatised utilities themselves, never mind their bosses — by which time such sums will just about buy a good family car.

Bridon shares hit by warning

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

BRIDON, the wire and wire rope manufacturer, gave a warning yesterday that profits would fall short of the previous year's £10 million because of anticipated difficulties in its foreign markets. Shares fell 44p to 104p, their lowest point for more than a year, as the City reacted negatively to the statement, which follows bullish comments made at the interim stage last August.

Bridon blamed the profit warning on a significant reduction in profitability at its US subsidiary, Bridon Cordage, which was forced to match price cuts initiated by a competitor and losses at the Australian division, Birkmyre, owing to poor demand.

The company added that delays in the completion of a major bridge project and deferral of delivery of certain crane rope and wire products into 1996 would also hit profits for 1995.

It also said that benefits from the group's manufacturing investment programme would not show through this year but will impact fully in 1996. Ronald Petersen, chief executive, said that he was confident Bridon would meet expectations for 1996 and that the company still intends to pay a 10 per cent increase in the dividend for 1995.

The £6 million acquisition of the German wire manufacturer, Schalkseil, will also help performance in 1996, while distribution activities continue to perform in line with expectations.

Gearing has been reduced to 30 per cent through the £25 million rights issue in August, and should be maintained. Bridon has been revitalised since Mr Petersen took over two years ago and launched a £25 million restructuring programme, moving back into the black in 1994.

Tempos, page 26



Sir Colin Southgate, Thorn EMI chairman, believes a demerger of the music and rentals businesses would be in the best interests of shareholders

Thorn EMI likely to announce demerger soon

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

AN ANNOUNCEMENT is expected soon on the demerger of Thorn EMI, the music and rentals business, although the move has not yet been officially ratified by the board.

Sir Colin Southgate, the chairman, confirmed recently that demerger plans were on schedule.

A spokesman for the company said yesterday that an announcement was expected early in the year and that current discussions included complex tax issues raised by the separation of the music and rentals businesses.

Twenty eight tax offices deal with the various operating companies within Thorn. Development of the businesses is continuing in spite of the expected demerger, which has been long been

heralded by the City and which Sir Colin admitted last summer would be in the best interests of shareholders.

The US operation of Thorn EMI is pursuing a buy-out programme of rental centres. Yesterday, it completed the purchases of two franchised businesses in a deal that, together with a large stock purchase, was worth £66 million.

Thorn Americas, which operates the largest rental-purchase business in North America, aims to buy 59 more stores in the Rent-A-Center range that are now run on a franchise basis.

Thorn operates 1,232 Rent-A-Center stores in the US, including the franchise businesses it is looking to buy.

Tempos, page 26

Westinghouse sells defence division to reduce CBS debt

By ERIC REGULY

THE rapid consolidation of the American defence industry continued yesterday with the sale of Westinghouse's defence and electronics business to Northrop Grumman for \$3.6 billion.

Westinghouse said the sale will allow it to pay down 65 per cent of the \$5.4 billion debt it took on last year to acquire CBS, one of the three largest television networks, from the billionaire Tisch family.

The defence sale caps a remarkable transformation at Westinghouse. Over the past two decades, it has sold virtually all the products, including refrigerators, toasters, light bulbs and lifts, that it was best known for. Before the CBS purchase, its largest business was electricity generation systems such as nuclear reactors.

With CBS in its portfolio and defence gone, broadcasting will account for about 45 per cent of Westinghouse's sales of \$10 billion and two-thirds of its earnings before taxes and in-

terest. Westinghouse shares rose \$1 to just above \$18 after the sale was announced. Analysts said Northrop Grumman paid more than expected. The company is assuming \$600 million in debt, raising the transaction's total value to \$3.6 billion.

Westinghouse's defence business is a large supplier of electronic systems. It produces radar and electronics for combat aircraft, including the F-16

fighter, the B-1B bomber and the C-30 transport. It also supplies air-traffic control radar to the Federal Aviation Administration.

Northrop Grumman, based in Los Angeles, is one of America's largest defence contractors and was formed in 1994, when Northrop bought Grumman. Later that year, the Vought Aircraft Company was added to the group. Northrop Grumman products

range from information systems to surveillance aircraft.

Kent Kresa, chairman and chief executive, said: "This transaction will meld into one company a growing number of high technology and high priority defence and electronics systems that are expected to be in great demand in the coming years."

The purchase leaves more defence businesses in the hands of fewer and fewer

companies. The consolidation has left Northrop Grumman, Boeing, McDonnell Douglas and Lockheed Martin, which was formed recently by the merger of Lockheed and Martin Marietta, as the leading players in the industry.

Defence industry consolidation is occurring in Europe, but at a slower pace. The biggest example was last year's merger of GEC and VSEL, the submarine maker.

Deal lifts Biocompatibles

SHARES in Biocompatibles International, the biotechnology and materials company, rose 35p to 510p yesterday after a marketing agreement with Sorin Biomedica, an Italian medical products company. The shares were placed on the stock market at 170p in April (Martin Barrow writes).

Sorin, which makes extracorporeal medical devices for heart-bypass operations, will use Biocompatibles' proprietary phosphocholine (pc) material to coat cannulae, hollow tubes inserted into the human body.

The agreement is for an initial five years. Dideco, a Sorin subsidiary, and its affiliates will market, and pay

royalties on sales of, cannulae incorporating pc in all markets, except America and Canada. An agreement for these markets is being considered.

This is the first commercial result of a two-year pact between Biocompatibles and Sorin to find applications for pc coatings in Dideco's devices for cardio-pulmonary procedures.

NOTICE TO EXISTING BARCLAYS MORTGAGE CUSTOMERS

Variable mortgage rates for existing borrowers will change as follows:

Barclays Mortgage Rate (Centrally administered mortgages) Interest charged monthly	Barclays Home Mortgage Rate (Branch based mortgages only) Interest charged quarterly
Old rate	
7.74%	7.74%
New rate	
7.49% Effective from 1st February 1996	7.49% Effective from 1st February 1996

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PIA survey fuels commissions row

By ROBERT MILLER

THE debate over the huge commissions and costs associated with long-term investments such as personal pensions and endowment-linked mortgages will become even more intense as a result of the new league tables published yesterday by the Personal Investment Authority (see Pennington this page).

In its report *Life Assurance Disclosure: One Year On*, the PIA has taken publicly available information, which all life offices must declare to investors on their key features documents, and tabulated it. Four types of product that the PIA considers to be "broadly representative" for savings, mortgage repayment, personal pensions and life assurance protection are covered.

The regulator then looked at the three sales channels: independent financial advisers (IFAs), appointed company representatives who sell on behalf of one company, and company

representatives, who are in effect a direct sales force. Under the disclosure rules effective from January 1 last year, all costs and benefits, including medical insurance and other perks, must be

included in the calculation. The results of the survey show that the average commission per policy for the first year alone ranges from £586 for appointed reps — just £1 ahead of company reps

5 YEAR PENSION PLAN		
COMPANY NAME	5 Year Total Deductions £	Full Term Reduction in Yield %
Old Mutual (CF)	1,890	2.1
United Friendly Insurance	1,790	2.6
Royal Insurance	1,580	2.4
Reliance Mutual	1,520	2.7
Albany Life	1,622	1.9
Abbey Life	1,480	2.1
Skandia Life	1,480	1.8
Windsor Life	1,420	2.7
Comhill Insurance	1,420	1.4
Britannia Life	1,416	1.9

Based on gross monthly premiums of £80.

Source: PIA

— to £476 for IFAs. The life offices argue that there are considerable costs involved in setting up a policy and that over the full term these expenses will average out. However, the PIA tables show that even over a five-year period very considerable sums can be deducted.

With a straightforward 10-year endowment savings plan, for example, the five-year actual deductions often exceed £1,000. With 25-year low-cost endowment policies only a handful of companies deduct less than £1,000, while at least 10 life offices are taking away more than £2,000.

The report also indicates how much the expenses are likely to damage investment payouts. Reductions in yields of up to 8.2 per cent are reported. In such cases the policy would have to make investment gains averaging more than 8.2 per cent to make any profit over the 10-year policy.

MPUS
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THE
TIMES
CITY
DIARY

Last of the
summer wine

THE legendary wine consultant David Russell, a cousin of the Duke of Bedford and a grand and lively octogenarian, just cannot keep his feet away from the grapes.

He counts Baroness Philippine de Rothschild, owner of the famed Chateau Mouton estate near Bordeaux, among his clients, and it was only last year that he retired after 23 years as a consultant to Krug, the world's most famous Champagne house.

Clearly life without the grape does not suit him. Russell, who once played two seasons with the Royal Shakespeare Company ("I was the first murderer in Macbeth"), has bought a 14-acre vineyard near Battle, East Sussex.

"The vineyard is well established and produces English wine, which isn't too bad. It's all a bit of fun," says Russell. And what does the Baroness think about it all? "I've told her she faces some stiff competition," he chuckles.

Birthday bid

WHAT is it about the Grande-Forté bid and birthdays? Gerry Robinson slapped Grande-Forté's bid on the Forté table just in time to ruin Lord Forté's 87th birthday last November. Sir Rocco's birthday—February 22—falls in the middle of Chinese new year celebrations to mark the year of the rat. And Robinson's birth year of 1948 makes him a rat year baby. They're told, always get what they want. Is this an omen?

ASKED "who do you think is most likely to be your boss in the next Millennium?", 53 per cent of respondents to a survey for Reed Personnel Services felt this would be a man, 34 per cent a woman, and 12 per cent a robot.



Tree trouble?

THE Corporation of London wants to make sure that residents and businesses avoid bad luck in 1996. The corporation is willing, until January 31, to put old Christmas trees through its shredder at Highgate Wood, Muswell Hill, as a public service. The material will either be spread through the wood, or you can take it back home as mulch for your garden.

Truck collision

THE Fork Truck Hire Association changed its name to the Fork Truck Association on January 1, and with inspired imagination plans to use the acronym FTA. But hold on. FTA is otherwise known and loved as the acronym for the Freight Transport Association, which has been around for many years and whose beefy truck drivers promise to defend their three letters with vigour.

Booby prize

ENTRANTS in a prestigious new writing competition on the future of Europe may be tempted to vent their spleen on the drift to federalism when they see the prize. The winner of the Philip Morris Institute competition will receive 15,000 euros as a prize.

COLIN CAMPBELL

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY



Britain appears good bet to dispel air of predictability

Higher levels of disposable income should aid return of 'feel-good' factor

Had I been properly trained at journalism school, the next two sentences could never have been written. I find myself with little of interest to say about the outlook for the world economy and the financial markets. The most surprising thing about 1995 was the absence of big surprises — and the same is likely to be true of 1996.

None of the main economies enters the new year in a state of extreme disequilibrium — although Japan, as usual, comes close. There is no government or central bank with policies so obviously perverse that they are bound to be abandoned — although the French, as usual, come close. And none of the financial markets seems too badly out of line with the fundamentals — although the stockbroking salesmen are, as usual, predicting a crash on Wall Street and a surge in Tokyo and the Far East.

The easiest prediction, then, is one that is hardly worth making: more of the same. Such is the unhappy lot of the economic seer in the middle of a long business cycle.

Where, then, might we expect the unexpected in 1996? In terms of overall economic performance I would suggest Britain, where I think conditions will turn out surprisingly benign. In currency markets, my picks this year are secondary markets — the French franc and the pound. This is because I remain fundamentally bullish about the dollar, but have my doubts about whether it can make much headway against the mark until the confusion over European Monetary Union is finally resolved.

In search of investment surprises I will stick to the market I correctly picked last year and which has already spectacularly outperformed all others: Wall Street. I will add a new warning on the British fund managers' perennial favourites: Japan and the Far East. This stance has the attraction of putting me directly at odds with the City consensus. According to the monthly Merrill Lynch survey of British fund managers, bulls on Japan outnumber bears by a near-record 78 percentage points; when it comes to Wall Street, by contrast, bears outnumber bulls by 16 points.

First, the British economy. With public spending overshooting and interest rates likely to fall to 6 per cent after dismal final figures for 1995 are announced in February, growth this year should exceed 3 per cent when measured between the fourth quarters of 1995 and 1996. More contentiously I believe that the widespread pessimism about the

outlook for consumption, jobs and housing will soon start to lift.

As the first chart suggests, the "feel-good" factor last year could largely be explained by the extraordinary weakness of personal disposable income (PDI), or cash take-home pay: 1994 saw the smallest increase in PDI since the 1940s. For homeowners with large mortgages PDI is what counts — and on this measure they fared worse in 1994 and 1995 than in any year of recession.

But this year disposable income should grow by 5 per cent or more. This will improve consumer confidence and boost housing — where values are already stunningly attractive as the second chart shows. I would expect the increase in house prices to be nearer 10 per cent than the 2 or 3 per cent most experts predict.

While Britain will do surprisingly well, the world economy as a whole will put in another disappointing performance, with strength in America offset by slow recoveries in Japan and Germany and an outright recession in France. This — combined with the growing signs that a Labour victory has now been thoroughly discounted — the economic revival is unlikely to do John Major much good — is what makes me bullish about the pound.

Turning to the world of finance, I think that bond markets will be disappointed at the limited scope for further monetary easing, especially in Germany where wage pressures remain intense and taxes are being cut. In addition, the threat of EMU will put a surprisingly high floor under Germany's long-term interest

rates as investors realise that they are unlikely to be paid back in marks. As a result, the French economy will slide into recession and the franc will suffer a string of further crises. The upshot will be an unstable time in all European financial markets and a flow of funds into the safe havens of American and British assets. The impact on currencies, however, may initially be perverse, with the mark gaining from the European tensions because it always has in the past. A strong mark, in turn, will mean another disastrous year for German industry. The complacency, self-righteousness and denial of economic reality that wrecked

“I believe that pessimism about the outlook for consumption, housing and jobs will start to lift”

Japan in the early 1990s have found a new home in Germany for the second half of the decade.

In the end, I expect a compromise to be cobbled together, allowing the French to join EMU after a devaluation with the Maastricht criteria watered down. This would, of course, be disastrous for the mark and for German financial assets. If, on the other hand, the EMU project did founder, the mark would initially strengthen, but the franc would collapse. Hence my preference for dollar-Paris as an each-way bet.

Speaking of gambling, let us turn to Wall Street. Although Wall Street rose more than 30 per cent in 1995, this rapid ascent does not necessarily

presage a crash. First, the bullish arguments for America I outlined last year are still treated with scepticism bordering on derision, especially by the big international fund managers in London and Edinburgh.

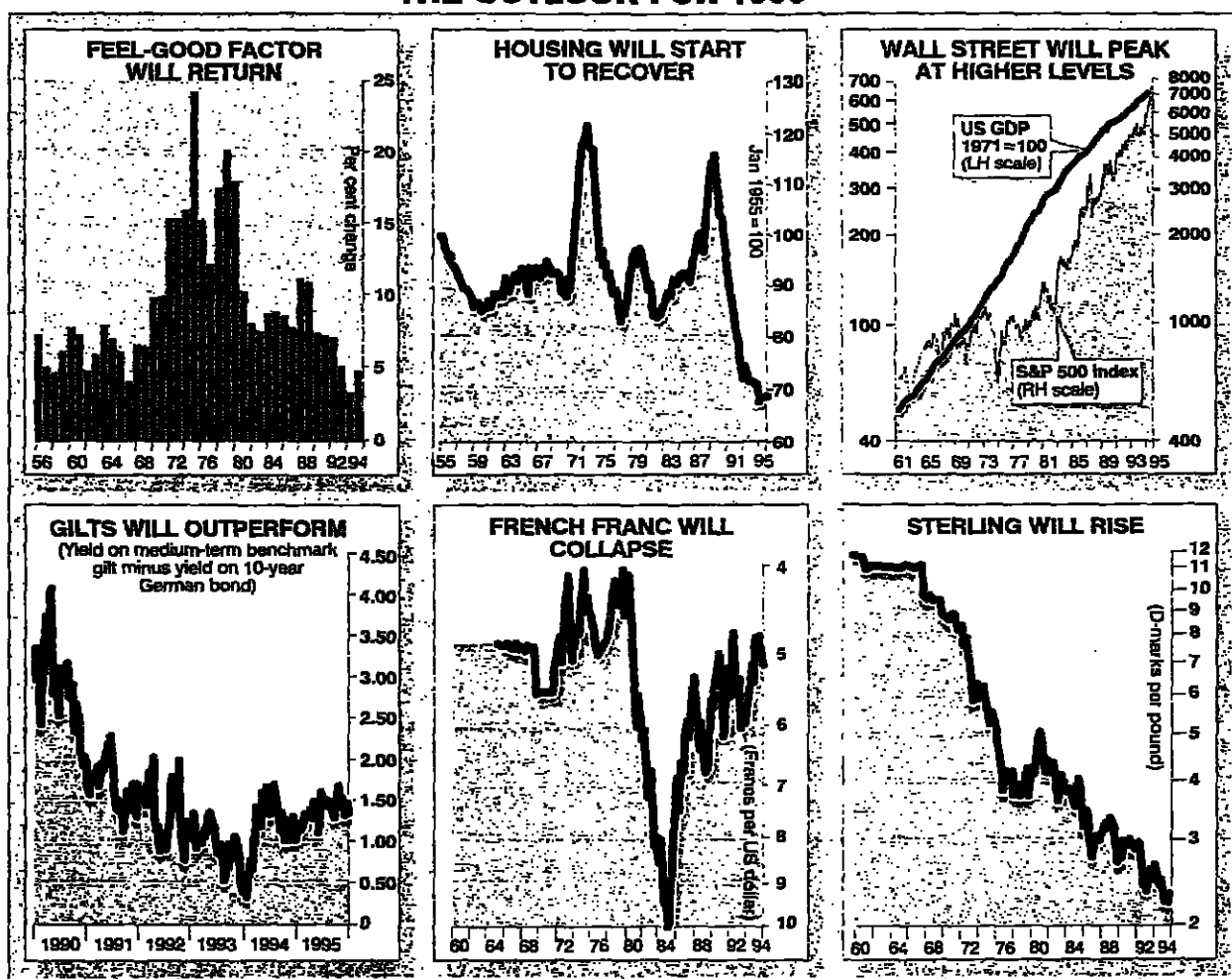
Secondly, the dollar remains weak, confirming that foreigners have not yet caught the Wall Street bug, while Americans have been over-committed to foreign investment. Finally, the valuations on Wall Street are only slightly above average and well below top-of-the-market extremes. Heavy industry stocks, which have seen some of America's most spectacular productivity improvements, are still particularly cheap.

Of course this bull market will end — and probably with a crash. But the climax is not yet at hand. The coming year is more likely to see a period of consolidation followed by another big surge accompanied by a stronger dollar, as interest rates stop falling and growth accelerates: a situation reminiscent of late 1986 rather than 1987.

While accelerating economic growth is seen as bad for shares in America and Britain, it is universally considered bullish in Japan and the Far East. That is fair enough since Japan is in a much earlier phase of its economic cycle, although why anyone should be bullish about countries like Malaysia and Thailand, with Mexican-style current account deficits, is beyond me.

Perhaps, after all, British fund managers are in for a surprise.

THE OUTLOOK FOR 1996



Flexible friends have withstood the test of time

Robert Miller looks at the continuing evolution of the 30-year-old credit card

The January sales are well under way — Harrods started yesterday — and credit cards are much in evidence. Barclaycard can look back with some satisfaction at the way it has changed our spending habits since its introduction in 1966.

However, there will be little chance to celebrate over the next few days. This is one of the busiest times of the year for fraudsters, and Barclaycard, together with its competitors, is braced for the inevitable rash of card thefts, on which the average spent by fraudsters on each card is £490.

In spite of the fact that 40 per cent of adults now hold a credit card, and spend an average of £1,100 every year, the dawn of a cashless society is not yet upon us, nor is it likely to be.

The latest research, published last week by Apacs (the Association for Payment Clearing Services), shows that when it comes to meeting regular commitments, such as gym membership or magazine subscriptions, younger people aged between 18 and 24 rely heavily on cash while older people prefer cheques. Furthermore, the number of withdrawals from 20,000 cash machines nationwide easily tops one billion, and the sums involved total nearly £6 billion. Some 80 per cent of all payments are still made with cash.

Nevertheless, the £3 million plastic debit, credit or charge cards in circulation have revolutionised the way we live now and the way in which we are likely to do business in the future. Barclaycard, for example, recently became the first credit card company to go onto the Internet with its Netlink.

Bob Potts, chief executive of Barclaycard, says: "When we began in business, our credit card was simply a replacement for a cheque, and transactions, which numbered a few hundred thousand, were paper-based. Nowadays credit cards are sophisticated payment and budgeting tools, with 95 per cent of the hundreds of millions of transactions made every year being handled electronically."

Travel and hotels are the items which occur most frequently on credit card transactions, according to the Credit Card Research Group (CCRG). The CCRG says that the average trans-

action value on a credit card is £44.57 against £27.70 for debit cards. Against that, the average travel spend on credit cards is £143.29, with hotels about £100.

Until 1989, cardholders who paid off their cards in full every month enjoyed totally free credit terms. Since then, most providers have introduced annual fees, which now average around £12. Goldcard holders can pay up to £90 a year, but then they often have access to a £10,000 overdraft facility at preferential rates.

Potts points out that cardholders are now wooed with a range of additional benefits, such as free insurance, international rescue facilities, access to legal advice or Barclaycard's Profile loyalty scheme and NatWest's Access Air Miles link.

Fighting plastic card fraud has been, and continues to be, a very expensive business, and not just confined to the New Year holiday and sales period. However, the hundreds of millions of pounds poured in to fighting card fraud is beginning to pay dividends. In 1994, the level of fraud fell for the third consecutive year by 25 per cent to £97 million, of which some £44 million was down to credit cards. Back in 1991, Apacs predicted that annual card fraud losses would be £250 million.

Potts, who says that one in three applicants is rejected by Barclaycard, believes that the electronic and information superhighways will provide major business opportunities in the future and certainly enough to boost the £1.37 spent every second with a credit card. He says: "There will be an explosion in opportunities, from buying goods and services to paying for films and plugging into television networks."

The security of such networks is never 100 per cent guaranteed, admits Potts, but with all the additional measures taken by card providers, the opportunities for fraud are becoming fewer.

As Barclaycard gears up to celebrate its official 30th birthday on June 29, it can reflect on the fact that its credit card is now accepted in ten million outlets around the world. Not bad for a business that started in a disused Northampton shoe factory in 1966.



Bargain-hunters at Harrods sale yesterday

BUSINESS LETTERS

Companies should be encouraged to boycott Barings until abandoned shareholders receive reimbursement

From J. L. K. Irvine
Sir, The headline in *The Times* (December 29) — "Barings shoots to top of table for City deals" — requires some comment.

The companies which patronised Barings in 1995 should bear in mind that this company walked away from its obligations to preference shareholders and £100 million of loan stock issued shortly before its collapse. These obligations were in large measure held by extremely elderly people on very restricted incomes who were desperately trying to hold on to their own homes or to pay the fees of old people's homes.

Yet the executives of Barings, far from trying to meet these obligations, preferred to continue to award themselves monstrous salaries and bonuses.

Admittedly this was apparently done with the knowledge of the administrators, but is no less reprehensible for that.

The behaviour of the bank is inconsistent with its outstand-

ing reputation for integrity and its high standard of ethics — now sadly dissipated.

Those of us who believe that the Barings shareholders should not have been so callously abandoned are bringing all the pressure we can to bring Barings to discharge its moral obligations. It would be helpful if those companies which continue to patronise it were to make their support conditional on the immediate settlement of all such obligations.

If ING were to find that it had purchased four walls and little else, they would soon see to it that Barings lived up to its reputation for integrity.

To those who seriously believe that they are still dealing with the old blue-blooded Barings which has been so long admired and respected in the City, it would be worth bearing in mind that Barings no longer exists except in name.

The company is called ING and it is Dutch. Let us hope that this year's headline reads

"Companies boycott Barings until shareholders are reimbursed".

Yours faithfully,
J. L. K. IRVINE,
Goosey, Orchard Gate, Needham Market, Ipswich.

Banks' smart move

From Mr Thom Willows
Sir, I quote from the smart card article of January 2: "... from this spring, cardholders will have to pay for the service."

2. "The banks and building societies would like Mondex to succeed because it costs them billions of pounds a year to handle cash."

Once again the banks wish the customer to pay for something which will save the banks money.

Yours faithfully,
THOM WILLOWS,
35 The Rough Newick, Lewes, East Sussex.

Investment trusts' costs are no secret

From the Director-General of the Association of Investment Trust Companies

Sir, Readers of Robert Miller's and Pennington's comment (December 21) on our response to the Personal Investment Authority's consultative document on disclosure could easily gain the impression that the Association of Investment Trust Companies and the PIA are at loggerheads over the introduction of the disclosure of charges and expenses.

Nothing could be further from the truth. AITC has always supported the introduction of a clear and effective disclosure regime for non-life investment products so that private investors are better able to compare and understand the competing products which are available to them.

We have had, and continue to have, mutually helpful discussions with the PIA on the drafting of rules and guidance on the subject. Among many other points made in those discussions, we have said that adequate time should be allowed between finalising the requirements and expecting

everyone to be able to comply with the rules.

We suggested a period of 12 months, partly to allow Imro, which regulates large numbers of investment trust savings and personal equity plan schemes, to introduce its own rules at the same time as the PIA. It would clearly be absurd for comparable rules to be introduced at different times.

All investment trust companies detail their launch costs in their prospectus, and their running costs in their annual reports, and the costs associated with the PIA and savings schemes are spelt out in the application packs and in AITC's own publications. So there is no debate about whether they should disclose charges, because they have always done so; rather, we are working constructively with the PIA to ensure that the rules and guidance are correct and helpful to potential investors.

Yours faithfully,
ERNEST J. FENTON,
Association of Investment Trust Companies,
Durrant House,
8-13 Chiswell Street, EC1.

Currency question stirs memories

From Mrs M. McAlpine
Sir, In reading recent letters concerning The Strand and Lyons Corner Houses, etc., I give the following.

During a meal with my family in Lyons Corner House in the early 1950s, a favourite eating place for our children (the equivalent of the present day McDonald's) I was left with mixed feelings. My husband was approached by a very troubled waitress, who seemed to imply that he had tendered foreign money. This resulted in repeated trips to

the cashier, causing a source of interest to all around. Eventually she was assured that he had tendered a Scottish half crown.

I met our Euro MP in my town the other day, smiling broadly. On my inquiring the reason, she exclaimed: "I have just had my Scottish £10 note queried as illegal tender."

So much for the age of progress.
Yours faithfully,
MARGARET MCALPINE,
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Great Dunmow, Essex.

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ACCOUNTANCY

Measure for measure

Plans to improve financial reporting may be at risk, says David Cairns

The Accounting Standards Board has frequently emphasised its support for international harmonisation, but recent developments could undermine its efforts to improve financial reporting in the UK. The possibility arises in the board's discussion paper on provisions. The board has proposed that provisions should be measured at the best estimate of the expenditure that will be incurred. When it is possible to estimate only a range, and no amount in that range is a better estimate than any other, the board proposes that a provision should be recognised for at least the minimum amount in the range.

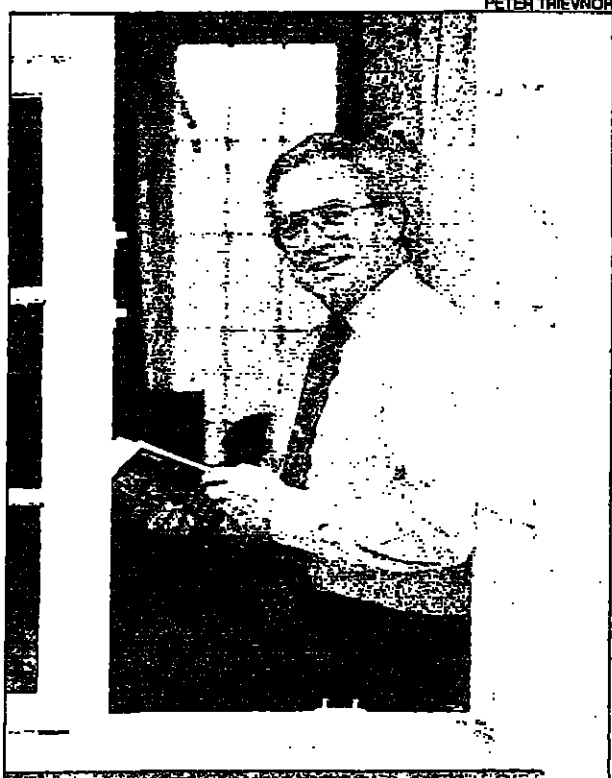
The board's measurement proposals are simple, sensible and pragmatic and are likely to prove acceptable to companies. They have the support of other standard-setting bodies and follow the requirements of the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC) in IAS 10. In these circumstances, we appear to have the best of all worlds — good accounting with simple rules, acceptability and international harmonisation.

Unfortunately, the International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) believes that the measurement guidance in IAS 10, which is

the same as that proposed by the board, would lead to substantial non-comparability. Some of its members would prefer the different requirements in US GAAP, which were developed more than 20 years ago. As a result, IOSCO has rejected IAS 10 for the purposes of its core standards for companies wishing to list their securities on foreign stock exchanges.

Consequently, IASC has committed itself to review IAS 10, a task that is a waste of scarce resources and which carries the risk that IASC will adopt different requirements from those favoured by the board.

The measurement guidance in IAS 10 is not the only area of disagreement. For example, IOSCO has rejected IASC's revised standard on research and development costs and indicated that it may accept accounting treatments on government grants not permitted by IASC or the board. There are many areas on which IOSCO has accepted IASC's requirements, but some of these might cause problems for national standard-setting bodies. For example, IOSCO has agreed with IASC's requirements that goodwill should be capitalised and amortised over a maximum of 20



David Cairns defends the value of board's proposals

years, something which may not go down well in the UK.

These problems are creating uncertainty for an increasing number of companies that use international accounting standards. They will also affect the standard-setting bodies as they come under pressure to accept what has been agreed by IASC and IOSCO. For

example, the board may come under pressure from the Securities and Investments Board, the UK member of IOSCO, to accept IOSCO's favoured treatments on provisions, government grants and goodwill. A better approach was spelt out 18 months ago by Edward Waiter, chairman of the Ontario Securities Commission.

He argued that international regulators should be looking at whether IASC is properly constituted, whether its standards are subject to adequate due process, and whether comments on IASC proposals are carefully considered and taken into account. He suggested that IOSCO endorsement of international accounting standards should essentially be an endorsement of the processes by which IASC's standards are developed rather than of the individual technical positions taken.

Other regulators did not agree, but the proposals should be pursued. They place emphasis on due process and consultation rather than international negotiations on acceptability. They encourage IASC to work with standard-setting bodies, companies and others, on common improvements to financial reporting that are acceptable to a wide constituency rather than standards that may be acceptable only to securities regulators. They would also allow national standard-setting bodies to adopt improvements in financial reporting that are unfettered by the results of past international negotiations but which might form the basis for new international standards.

David Cairns is the author of *A Guide to Applying International Accounting Standards* to be published next week by *Accountancy Books*, £29.95, PO Box 620, Central Milton Keynes MK9 2J, or telephone 01908 248000.

Ready for a year of living dangerously

IT IS that time of year again. The time when people tell you earnestly that this will be a crucial year for the profession and that, once again, accountancy is at a crossroads. None of this is new. All it shows is that people care. When they cease to care, it will be time for accountants to try their hands at something else.

This year, it could well be the bureaucrats who find themselves in that position. The proposed merger between the English ICA and CIMA, the management accounting body, will go to the vote. It is the latest in a long line of efforts to rationalise the profession's ruling bodies. The last one to succeed was back in the days when Denis Compton was still scoring centuries at Lord's.

If this year's effort should fail, those running the various accounting bodies really will have to go back to the core tasks of providing member services and enhancing reputation rather than empire-building. They will just have to accept that they have been unequal to the task of convincing their members that a better tomorrow will come from larger organisations. This is a pity. The European market beckons. The Anglo-Saxon tradition of more rather than fewer accountants could have been transplanted on the back of the expansion of multinationals into Europe.

If the merger fails, the accountancy bodies will have to plan for a future that may include some kind of securities and exchange commission, further marginalising their efforts. They have only themselves to blame. The concentration on initiatives that only bureaucrats could believe would succeed has alienated them from their memberships and also from their most influential members, those in the large accounting firms.

The year should provide more than a few embarrassments for large firms. Existing litigation will rumble on. Even when smaller sums are negotiated in settlement, they will appear small only in relation to the original projections.

This month will provide a key test of the profession's ability to argue its case. When KPMG reveals more of its financial figures than any firm has before, the public interest is likely to be keen. Partners' earnings, however hedged about with caveats about pension provision, will appear high. We are not talking about just a few talented individuals, but hundreds of high-earning partners. The

skill with which this is justified to a public that yearns for more fat cats to blame will be a test of the profession's maturity.

It will be a difficult year on a wider front when it comes to calculating key figures. The first accounts to be produced post-Greenbury will provoke wide debate. When the public realises the scale of future incomes being triggered by pension provisions, there will be uproar. The accountancy profession will again need to have good explanations ready. The future will also bring the focus back on the second Cadbury committee. The "we will sit on our hands until we can see something worth doing" approach, which characterised the committee's launch last year, will look increasingly complacent as the year unfolds.

The large firms will find themselves in difficulty with what ought to be their core service — audit. It seems extraordinarily short-sighted for firms to have to boost audit as their prime product. The insistence on playing down the importance of audit as the firms all

tumbled into the business of flogging short-term and highly priced additional services has come back to haunt them. Now they are desperately trying to tell clients that audits are wonderful and useful things. Clients hark back a few years to when audit fees were slashed, the value of audits disparaged, and brochures on unlikely services flooded finance directors' desks. With hindsight, UK firms have moved too close to the US model. Waves of frighteningly bright young accountants provide excellent short-term project assistance to clients. But this obscures and dilutes the prime value of the profession. In this country, the

answer to the question "what is an accountant for?" has never been: "Someone who comes in to fix something which is broken."

Accountants do provide that sort of service. But their prime value is advice. And that comes from experience and wisdom. Traditionally, that is what accountants are for. It holds true from the practitioner in Loamshire getting a farm's tax position straight to a senior partner giving the chairman of Allied Conglomerates the benefit of a prescient lunch. Toning down the current all-singing, all-dancing approach to a quieter advisory approach would do wonders for the profession. The added-value in the long term would not just be about success. It could also be about survival.



ROBERT BRUCE

Indirect, but to the point

OFFICIAL responses to consultation papers are among the dullest of documents. What they tend to lack is a good bit of outright rudeness. So we should all applaud the Institute of Indirect Taxation. When asked to respond to a Customs and Excise paper on its standards of service, the institute, under the tutelage of Robert Maas, of Blackstone Franks, is well, uncompromising. "Sending a written

reply within ten days is not helpful," the institute says, "if, as is frequently the case, that reply is along the lines of 'here is our notice/leaflet, work the answer to your problems out yourself'."

New year cheer

JOHN CORRIN will be feeling pleased with himself. His CBE in the New Year Honours for services to the textile

industry will have cheered him greatly. His fellow members at this month's English ICA Council conference can expect even more references to himself as "the only bloody person on this council who actually manufactures things".

Taxing times

EVEN partnerships will be affected by the switch to self-assessment of tax. Touche Ross

has produced a question and answer leaflet to help such clients with their problems. Reassurance is obviously hard to provide in this brave new world. To the question "once I have sent in the return and paid the tax, is that it?" Touche can only answer: "We would hope so."

Loyal service

ANYONE who doubted the

view of Ian Brindle, Price Waterhouse senior partner, that the partnership ethos promotes loyalty should look to the firm's own internal newspaper. There they would learn that the loyal Doug Scheu, head of the London office stationery department, has just retired after 44 years with the firm — and that his father before him had joined the firm in 1936 in the days when his duties had included delivering the coal to partners' offices.

ROBERT BRUCE

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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Group secretary required to join expanding team in Corporate Department. Good working knowledge of Word for Windows 6 (typing 50+), knowledge of Powerpoint an advantage. Suit 2nd jobber. Salary £13,500 - £15,500 (plus benefits) depending on age and experience. Please quote Ref 102.

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Bank of Wales	110.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Bank of Cyprus	108.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Bank of Greece	106.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Bank of Spain	104.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Bank of Portugal	102.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Bank of France	100.00	+0.50	+0.4%

DISTRIBUTORS

Stock	Price	Change	%
British Petroleum	125.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Shell	120.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Esso	115.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Agip	110.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Eni	105.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Indesit	100.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Whirlpool	95.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Electrolux	90.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Grundig	85.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Philips	80.00	+0.50	+0.4%

BREWERIES

Stock	Price	Change	%
Guinness	120.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Heineken	115.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Beck's	110.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Carlsberg	105.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Tuborg	100.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Asahi	95.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Daewoo	90.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Hyundai	85.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Kia	80.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Ssangyong	75.00	+0.50	+0.4%

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Stock	Price	Change	%
British Airways	120.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	115.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Gas	110.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Water	105.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Rail	100.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Airways	95.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	90.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Gas	85.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Water	80.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Rail	75.00	+0.50	+0.4%

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Stock	Price	Change	%
Rolls Royce	120.00	+0.50	+0.4%
BMW	115.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Mercedes-Benz	110.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Vauxhall	105.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Ford	100.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Volvo	95.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Subaru	90.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Toyota	85.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Honda	80.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Nissan	75.00	+0.50	+0.4%

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Stock	Price	Change	%
Unilever	120.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Unilever	115.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Unilever	110.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Unilever	105.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Unilever	100.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Unilever	95.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Unilever	90.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Unilever	85.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Unilever	80.00	+0.50	+0.4%
Unilever	75.00	+0.50	+0.4%

ELECTRICITY

Stock	Price	Change	%
British Energy	120.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Energy	115.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Energy	110.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Energy	105.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Energy	100.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Energy	95.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Energy	90.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Energy	85.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Energy	80.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Energy	75.00	+0.50	+0.4%

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Stock	Price	Change	%
British Telecom	120.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	115.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	110.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	105.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	100.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	95.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	90.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	85.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	80.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	75.00	+0.50	+0.4%

BUILDING MATERIALS

Stock	Price	Change	%
British Telecom	120.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	115.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	110.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	105.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	100.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	95.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	90.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	85.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	80.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	75.00	+0.50	+0.4%

BUSINESS SERVICES

Stock	Price	Change	%
British Telecom	120.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	115.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	110.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	105.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	100.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	95.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	90.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	85.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	80.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	75.00	+0.50	+0.4%

CHEMICALS

Stock	Price	Change	%
British Telecom	120.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	115.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	110.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	105.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	100.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	95.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	90.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	85.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	80.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	75.00	+0.50	+0.4%

ENGINEERING

Stock	Price	Change	%
British Telecom	120.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	115.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	110.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	105.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	100.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	95.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	90.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	85.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	80.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	75.00	+0.50	+0.4%

INSURANCE

Stock	Price	Change	%
British Telecom	120.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	115.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	110.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	105.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	100.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	95.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	90.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	85.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	80.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	75.00	+0.50	+0.4%

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Stock	Price	Change	%
British Telecom	120.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	115.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	110.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	105.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	100.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	95.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	90.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	85.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	80.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	75.00	+0.50	+0.4%

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Stock	Price	Change	%
British Telecom	120.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	115.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	110.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	105.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	100.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	95.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	90.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	85.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	80.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	75.00	+0.50	+0.4%

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock	Price	Change	%
British Telecom	120.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	115.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	110.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	105.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	100.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	95.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	90.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	85.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	80.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	75.00	+0.50	+0.4%

OIL & GAS

Stock	Price	Change	%
British Telecom	120.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	115.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	110.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	105.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	100.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	95.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	90.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	85.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	80.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	75.00	+0.50	+0.4%

OTHER FINANCIAL

Stock	Price	Change	%
British Telecom	120.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	115.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	110.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	105.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	100.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	95.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	90.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	85.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	80.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	75.00	+0.50	+0.4%

RETAILERS, FOOD

Stock	Price	Change	%
British Telecom	120.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	115.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	110.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	105.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	100.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	95.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	90.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	85.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	80.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	75.00	+0.50	+0.4%

RETAILERS, GENERAL

Stock	Price	Change	%
British Telecom	120.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	115.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	110.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	105.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	100.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	95.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	90.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	85.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	80.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	75.00	+0.50	+0.4%

Stock	Price	Change	%
British Telecom	120.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	115.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	110.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	105.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	100.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	95.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	90.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	85.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	80.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	75.00	+0.50	+0.4%

PHARMACEUTICALS

Stock	Price	Change	%
British Telecom	120.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	115.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	110.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	105.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	100.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	95.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	90.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	85.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	80.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	75.00	+0.50	+0.4%

PRINTING & PAPER

Stock	Price	Change	%
British Telecom	120.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	115.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	110.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	105.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	100.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	95.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	90.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	85.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	80.00	+0.50	+0.4%
British Telecom	75.00	+0.50	+0.4%

PROPERTY

Stock	Price	Change	%
British Telecom	120.00	+0.50	+0.4%

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Unit Trust Name	Unit Price	Change	Unit Trust Name	Unit Price	Change
ABN UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD			ABN UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD		
ABN 1000	100.00	0.00	ABN 1000	100.00	0.00
ABN 2000	200.00	0.00	ABN 2000	200.00	0.00
ABN 3000	300.00	0.00	ABN 3000	300.00	0.00
ABN 4000	400.00	0.00	ABN 4000	400.00	0.00
ABN 5000	500.00	0.00	ABN 5000	500.00	0.00
ABN 6000	600.00	0.00	ABN 6000	600.00	0.00
ABN 7000	700.00	0.00	ABN 7000	700.00	0.00
ABN 8000	800.00	0.00	ABN 8000	800.00	0.00
ABN 9000	900.00	0.00	ABN 9000	900.00	0.00
ABN 10000	1000.00	0.00	ABN 10000	1000.00	0.00
ABN 11000	1100.00	0.00	ABN 11000	1100.00	0.00
ABN 12000	1200.00	0.00	ABN 12000	1200.00	0.00
ABN 13000	1300.00	0.00	ABN 13000	1300.00	0.00
ABN 14000	1400.00	0.00	ABN 14000	1400.00	0.00
ABN 15000	1500.00	0.00	ABN 15000	1500.00	0.00
ABN 16000	1600.00	0.00	ABN 16000	1600.00	0.00
ABN 17000	1700.00	0.00	ABN 17000	1700.00	0.00
ABN 18000	1800.00	0.00	ABN 18000	1800.00	0.00
ABN 19000	1900.00	0.00	ABN 19000	1900.00	0.00
ABN 20000	2000.00	0.00	ABN 20000	2000.00	0.00
ABN 21000	2100.00	0.00	ABN 21000	2100.00	0.00
ABN 22000	2200.00	0.00	ABN 22000	2200.00	0.00
ABN 23000	2300.00	0.00	ABN 23000	2300.00	0.00
ABN 24000	2400.00	0.00	ABN 24000	2400.00	0.00
ABN 25000	2500.00	0.00	ABN 25000	2500.00	0.00
ABN 26000	2600.00	0.00	ABN 26000	2600.00	0.00
ABN 27000	2700.00	0.00	ABN 27000	2700.00	0.00
ABN 28000	2800.00	0.00	ABN 28000	2800.00	0.00
ABN 29000	2900.00	0.00	ABN 29000	2900.00	0.00
ABN 30000	3000.00	0.00	ABN 30000	3000.00	0.00
ABN 31000	3100.00	0.00	ABN 31000	3100.00	0.00
ABN 32000	3200.00	0.00	ABN 32000	3200.00	0.00
ABN 33000	3300.00	0.00	ABN 33000	3300.00	0.00
ABN 34000	3400.00	0.00	ABN 34000	3400.00	0.00
ABN 35000	3500.00	0.00	ABN 35000	3500.00	0.00
ABN 36000	3600.00	0.00	ABN 36000	3600.00	0.00
ABN 37000	3700.00	0.00	ABN 37000	3700.00	0.00
ABN 38000	3800.00	0.00	ABN 38000	3800.00	0.00
ABN 39000	3900.00	0.00	ABN 39000	3900.00	0.00
ABN 40000	4000.00	0.00	ABN 40000	4000.00	0.00
ABN 41000	4100.00	0.00	ABN 41000	4100.00	0.00
ABN 42000	4200.00	0.00	ABN 42000	4200.00	0.00
ABN 43000	4300.00	0.00	ABN 43000	4300.00	0.00
ABN 44000	4400.00	0.00	ABN 44000	4400.00	0.00
ABN 45000	4500.00	0.00	ABN 45000	4500.00	0.00
ABN 46000	4600.00	0.00	ABN 46000	4600.00	0.00
ABN 47000	4700.00	0.00	ABN 47000	4700.00	0.00
ABN 48000	4800.00	0.00	ABN 48000	4800.00	0.00
ABN 49000	4900.00	0.00	ABN 49000	4900.00	0.00
ABN 50000	5000.00	0.00	ABN 50000	5000.00	0.00
ABN 51000	5100.00	0.00	ABN 51000	5100.00	0.00
ABN 52000	5200.00	0.00	ABN 52000	5200.00	0.00
ABN 53000	5300.00	0.00	ABN 53000	5300.00	0.00
ABN 54000	5400.00	0.00	ABN 54000	5400.00	0.00
ABN 55000	5500.00	0.00	ABN 55000	5500.00	0.00
ABN 56000	5600.00	0.00	ABN 56000	5600.00	0.00
ABN 57000	5700.00	0.00	ABN 57000	5700.00	0.00
ABN 58000	5800.00	0.00	ABN 58000	5800.00	0.00
ABN 59000	5900.00	0.00	ABN 59000	5900.00	0.00
ABN 60000	6000.00	0.00	ABN 60000	6000.00	0.00
ABN 61000	6100.00	0.00	ABN 61000	6100.00	0.00
ABN 62000	6200.00	0.00	ABN 62000	6200.00	0.00
ABN 63000	6300.00	0.00	ABN 63000	6300.00	0.00
ABN 64000	6400.00	0.00	ABN 64000	6400.00	0.00
ABN 65000	6500.00	0.00	ABN 65000	6500.00	0.00
ABN 66000	6600.00	0.00	ABN 66000	6600.00	0.00
ABN 67000	6700.00	0.00	ABN 67000	6700.00	0.00
ABN 68000	6800.00	0.00	ABN 68000	6800.00	0.00
ABN 69000	6900.00	0.00	ABN 69000	6900.00	0.00
ABN 70000	7000.00	0.00	ABN 70000	7000.00	0.00
ABN 71000	7100.00	0.00	ABN 71000	7100.00	0.00
ABN 72000	7200.00	0.00	ABN 72000	7200.00	0.00
ABN 73000	7300.00	0.00	ABN 73000	7300.00	0.00
ABN 74000	7400.00	0.00	ABN 74000	7400.00	0.00
ABN 75000	7500.00	0.00	ABN 75000	7500.00	0.00
ABN 76000	7600.00	0.00	ABN 76000	7600.00	0.00
ABN 77000	7700.00	0.00	ABN 77000	7700.00	0.00
ABN 78000	7800.00	0.00	ABN 78000	7800.00	0.00
ABN 79000	7900.00	0.00	ABN 79000	7900.00	0.00
ABN 80000	8000.00	0.00	ABN 80000	8000.00	0.00
ABN 81000	8100.00	0.00	ABN 81000	8100.00	0.00
ABN 82000	8200.00	0.00	ABN 82000	8200.00	0.00
ABN 83000	8300.00	0.00	ABN 83000	8300.00	0.00
ABN 84000	8400.00	0.00	ABN 84000	8400.00	0.00
ABN 85000	8500.00	0.00	ABN 85000	8500.00	0.00
ABN 86000	8600.00	0.00	ABN 86000	8600.00	0.00
ABN 87000	8700.00	0.00	ABN 87000	8700.00	0.00
ABN 88000	8800.00	0.00	ABN 88000	8800.00	0.00
ABN 89000	8900.00	0.00	ABN 89000	8900.00	0.00
ABN 90000	9000.00	0.00	ABN 90000	9000.00	0.00
ABN 91000	9100.00	0.00	ABN 91000	9100.00	0.00
ABN 92000	9200.00	0.00	ABN 92000	9200.00	0.00
ABN 93000	9300.00	0.00	ABN 93000	9300.00	0.00
ABN 94000	9400.00	0.00	ABN 94000	9400.00	0.00
ABN 95000	9500.00	0.00	ABN 95000	9500.00	0.00
ABN 96000	9600.00	0.00	ABN 96000	9600.00	0.00
ABN 97000	9700.00	0.00	ABN 97000	9700.00	0.00
ABN 98000	9800.00	0.00	ABN 98000	9800.00	0.00
ABN 99000	9900.00	0.00	ABN 99000	9900.00	0.00
ABN 100000	10000.00	0.00	ABN 100000	10000.00	0.00

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■ FILM 1

A tense new thriller, *Seven*, gives a sinister twist to the words "deadly sins"



■ FILM 2

... but France's costliest film, *The Horseman on the Roof*, fails to match drama to spectacle



■ FILM 3

Adultery and horse-breeding in the Deep South give us *Something to Talk About*



■ FILM 4

... but Quentin Tarantino and pals make a pig's ear of the compendium movie, *Four Rooms*

CINEMA: Brad Pitt, Morgan Freeman and a darkness that glows with life make *Seven* a special thriller, says Geoff Brown

See it before you go sinning

The last thing we need is another film about serial killers, but *Seven* goes about its grisly business with an off-beat panache that demands attention. Your nerves are set on edge by the credit sequence, a fancy affair of flickering names and scratched footage. And they stay on edge right to the end, while director David Fincher pursues the story through a metropolitan hell of perpetual darkness and rain. Even the office furniture is oppressive.

The script, by neophyte writer Andrew Kevin Walker, follows a schematic path. Two cops, unwillingly teamed: one is weary and close to retirement (Morgan Freeman), the other is a young eager beaver (Brad Pitt). Their target is a serial killer who arranges his murders to illustrate the seven deadly sins. Sloth is a man tied to a bed, rotting to death over a year. Gluttony is someone forced to eat until he pops. The killer, you note, has a macabre sense of humour. So has the film, although the jokes never lighten the burden of a story that grows grimmer as the sins pile up.

Fincher's one previous film, *Alien³*, shared the same dingy colours and downbeat mood. But where that film stumbled over its tedious plot, *Seven* almost dances with vitality. Working closely with Darius Khondji, cameraman of *Delicatessen*, and Arthur Max, a designer with a rock concert background, Fincher creates the ultimate urban nightmare, where light scarcely penetrates the gloom and every image is framed off-centre.

Seven, though, would be a hollow achievement if its only virtues were pictorial. Even a serial killer thriller needs a touch of humanity, and while women in the story get short shrift, enough care is invested in the relationship between Freeman and Pitt that you never feel the film is stocked with robots. Freeman's veteran detective is a bruised soul who has supped too long on violence: while Pitt bounces around, eager for the fray, odd couples have become a dreadful cliché in cop films, but this pairing works beautifully.

The film earns points, too, for not letting audiences off the hook. Instead, they should stumble out with mixed feelings: depressed by the depths

Seven
Odeon Leicester Square
18, 127 mins
Off-beat serial killer drama

The Horseman on the Roof
Lumiere, 15, 135 mins
Dashing, but ...

Something to Talk About
Warner West End
15, 106 mins
Erring husbands and horses down South

Four Rooms
Warner West End
18, 90 mins
Four cult directors fall on their faces

All Men are Mortal
Warner West End
15, 91 mins
Simone de Beauvoir becomes a Europudding

The Kingdom
ICA Cinema, 279 mins
Lars von Trier's medical soap opera

to which fictional humanity can sink, but transfixed by the film like a rabbit frozen in a car's headlights.

At one point in *The Horseman on the Roof* the subtitles shift from the bottom of the screen so as not to destroy the pretty image of three riders silhouetted against the horizon. Such thoughtfulness is rare in subtitles. Such pretentiousness is rare, too, especially in a film set during a cholera epidemic. True, the camera points at a crow picking at a corpse's eyeball, but the general effect of Jean-Paul Rappeneau's (see interview, below) lumbering film is of images radiant enough to adorn an art gallery.

There are good reasons for this air of magnificence. When your most recent film is the award-winning *Cyrano de Bergerac*, you scarcely want to hide away and make some trifle for tuppence-ha-penny. *The Horseman*, in fact, cost £176 million (£23 million), a national record. A sum like that brings the pomp and circumstance of heritage cinema: massed extras and period costumes, gorgeous photography of the beauties of Pro-

vence, all tied to the coat-tails of a literary classic, Jean Giono's novel *Le Hussard sur le toit*, first published in 1951.

A fat budget, however, cannot guarantee artistic success. As Olivier Martinez's 19th-century Italian hussar thunders through alleyways and olive groves, a fugitive from Austrian agents, British viewers may wonder when the film's story will settle down. Eventually the hussar gets up on the roof: Manosque, in Provence, has many roofs, and they prove a refuge when the citizens, fearful of cholera spreading, accuse Martinez of infecting their well.

As in *Cyrano*, Rappeneau shows his skills as a choreographer of swordfights and running crowds. Martinez, a relatively unknown actor, never approaches the Errol Flynn twinkle that his part demands, although the director provides valuable camouflage.

Then, 50 minutes in, Martinez falls through a skylight and finds Juliette Binoche, the Mona Lisa of French film actresses. Luckily her enigmatic smile befits her role as a noblewoman, suave among the grimaces of death. Companions in adversity, the two share improbable adventures, and the story belatedly finds a focus. Love grows, at least on Martinez's side; Binoche always holds back, as mysterious and secretive as a cat.

As befits a national epic, *The Horseman* conjures up the colours, scents and sounds of 1830s Provence, baking in the sun. It expresses Giono's love of the soil. But pretty pictures are not everything, and as a big arthouse film for export *The Horseman* lacks oomph. A major disappointment.

Something to Talk About should be exactly that, since the star is Julia Roberts, the script is by Callie Khouri, author of *Thelma & Louise* and the director is Lasse Hallström, last seen stamping his whimsical style on *What's Eating Gilbert Grape*. Credentials, however, mean little when the matters the characters talk about rarely grab your attention.

We are down South in horse-breeding country. Roberts is a wife and horsewoman whose life comes unstuck when she spots her husband (Dennis Quaid) with a blonde in a red dress. Adjusting her feminist perspective to Southern patriarchal society,



Brad Pitt finds himself in a spot of trouble, playing a detective chasing a biblically inspired serial killer in David Fincher's excellent *Seven*

Khouri allows the acrimony to mellow, and wastes too much time with a horsey subplot of no interest. The players, admittedly, are well cast. Roberts and Kyra Sedgwick make convincing sisters, while Gena Rowlands and Robert Duvall were born to play Southern parents, trapped in tradition.

Few items on last year's festival circuit were as eagerly awaited as *Four Rooms*. Then the film appeared at Toronto. Red faces all round: Robert Rodriguez, Alexandre Rockwell, Allison Anders and the god Tarantino had given birth to a mirthless comedy. The movie, a compendium of stories unfolding over New Year's Eve in a Hollywood hotel, was sent back for cutting and reshooting. But no tinkering can hide the badness of Tim Roth's performance as the hotel's twitching bellhop, or make good jokes from juvenile nonsense. Tarantino's segment is interestingly shot in long, serpentine takes; but the strongest, or rather least worst, material comes from Rodriguez's story about a gangster's children reducing their room to a flaming hell.

All Men are Mortal: indeed

they are, which is why we should try to forgive director Arie de Jong for cooking up this ghastly Europudding from Simone de Beauvoir's novel about love and immortality. *Tous les Hommes sont mortels*. The talents of Britain, The Netherlands and France were put to work, along with the funds of Eurimages, the EU scheme from which Britain has announced its withdrawal. How nice it would be to cheer the film along. But the arch English dialogue, the sight of Irene Jacob and Stephen Rea all at sea, and the sense that no audience exists for this anywhere, make it impossible.

Adventurous souls with four hours to spare should consider Lars von Trier's medical soap opera *The Kingdom*, a Danish TV production. The handheld, brown-tinted photography allows for none of the hyperbole expected from the director of *Europa*; instead, he aims at a nervous style aping TV realism. The film, blending satire and horror, would be more comfortably watched in segments: but continuous viewing makes you appreciate von Trier's insouciance.

Dons learn to love the movies by degrees

What would the Oxbridge academics of the past have thought? Not only are the undergraduates of the country's most venerable, and venerated, institutions of learning being allowed to attend cinematic performances, they are even attending lectures on the topic and — thin end of the wedge, no doubt — writing papers about it.

While 30 other British universities now offer undergraduates the chance to spend three years discussing the relative merits of Tarantino, Tavernier and Co. Oxford and Cambridge have, until fairly recently, refused to take celluloid seriously.

The current academic year, however, has brought exams, lectures and screenings which suggest that, in its centenary year, the cinema is finally making strides towards acceptance alongside literature, music and art as a "proper" subject for study at the ancient seats of learning.

Oxford's English department has a Language, Film and the Media paper, and cinema scholar Ian Christie has just completed his first term at Magdalen College as the university's first visiting lecturer in film.

His lectures on European cinema were accompanied by a season of eight films from the likes of Sergei Eisenstein and Ken Loach at the Phoenix Picture House. Last October, David Putnam visited Oxford to deliver four public lectures on the movie industry.

Film is also attaining unprecedented status at Cambridge. In June, 20 final-year modern linguists will sit the inaugural Contemporary European Cinema paper. The exam focuses on 16 continental masterpieces, such as Godard's *A Bout de Souffle*, which are being shown in a six-month companion season at the Arts

Even our oldest universities are introducing 'film studies', writes Daniel Rosenthal

Cinema, Cambridge's only arthouse screen. The Cambridge English faculty, meanwhile, is approaching benefactors in search of the £15 million required to endow a chair in theatre, film and television.

Christie, who wrote last year's BBC2 series on early cinema, *The Last Machine*, feels the tentative acceptance of film at Oxbridge is "overdue, but very good news. Film has always been regarded at a much lower cultural level in England than in France or Italy. I hope that bringing in new exams, involving people like Putnam and linking up with the local cinemas will help to raise film's profile."

"If the medium is going to penetrate into high culture, then it needs recognition at Oxford and Cambridge; not because they are somehow better than other universities which already teach film, but because, when you are talking about cultural values, what happens at Oxbridge is still very important."

Margarita Stocker, who helped to design the Language, Film and the Media exam, hopes Oxford MPhil courses in film will be available soon. "Cinema has come of age in much the same way as literature did at the end of the last century," she says. "I don't think these developments could have happened in Oxford even ten years ago, but today, people are less

likely to say: 'We watch films, we don't study them'.

"It may also be that with the dizzying pace of multimedia technological advances, film is beginning to seem rather traditional, and therefore a more natural part of academic life."

Her views are echoed by David Forgacs, one of the men responsible for giving Cambridge language students the opportunity to study Pedro Almodovar and Wim Wenders alongside Cervantes and Goethe. "We needed to convince people that studying cinema constitutes serious academic work, not just sitting around watching movies," he says.

Fundraising for the new chair in theatre, film and television is reported to be going well and, once a professor has been appointed, the previously unthinkable prospect of film studies degrees being introduced at Cambridge may not be far behind.

But if these changes are encouraging for Oxbridge-bound movie buffs, they are unlikely to impress academics elsewhere. Victor Perkins, author of the standard textbook, *Film as Film*, and a lecturer at Warwick University, believes the moves say more about Oxbridge conservatism than the cultural status of cinema.

"All universities were slow to take up film studies, which began in schools and worked its way up through further education. The higher you go, the more conservative people have been," Perkins says. "I don't think these new exams are a matter for celebration on behalf of cinema, so much as an indication of how slow Oxbridge has been to engage with the 20th century."

● The European Cinema season resumes at the Cambridge Arts Cinema (01223 352001) on January 22 and runs until March 12

Adaptation the sincerest form of flattery

David Robinson on why the director of *The Horseman on the Roof* changed a story he loved

Jean-Paul Rappeneau has loved and revered Jean Giono's novel *Le Hussard sur le toit* since he first read it in 1953, when the book had just come out and he was 21 years old. Love and reverence, though, have not inhibited his very free adaptation of the text.

"The 'mystery' plot about agents who come from Italy hunting our hero, Angelo, is my invention," he explains. "and the ending is quite different. In the book there is no husband for the heroine to return to."

"When I came to reread it in 1992 with the idea of making a film, I realised there was a lot of work to be done to find a way through this great reservoir of images. Giono gives us these marvellous contrasts between the brutality of the events, the constant presence of death and, on the other hand, the overwhelming beauty of nature and the constant presence of sentiments."

"But the actual story of the journey of the young man and his meeting with the woman, which happens quite late in the book, is very slender. Nothing happens. He leaps on his horse and rides off again. 'I hesitated until I met Giono's daughter, Sylvie. I told her: 'If I make the film, I shall have to change the book a lot. She said: 'Go ahead. Change everything. My father would have adored that.' I think it's true. He was a man who felt that things should not be left alone, that they should

evolve. So I felt free to make changes."

"Like Giono, I am a country boy. I was born in Burgundy, in Auxerre. Before making the film I had never been to Provence, which existed in my mind as the legendary country created by Giono."

"The natural beauty of Provence becomes a character in the film. The cholera is another character, representing evil. They are always in conflict. Beauty is everywhere — in nature, the summer, the sun, the rivers — but death is also everywhere."

"It is not realistic. It is a conte de la chivalerie. From childhood, Giono loved the old romances. For me the film unfolds like a tale of chivalry — Tristan and Yseult — or even a fairy-tale. The imagery comes from Giono's childhood reading, and my own."

"There's another level of meaning, too. For Giono there was a metaphor of the recent war in France. I told my actors that 'you are the Resistance.' Rappeneau was born in 1932, entered films as an assistant director and, as a screenwriter, was notably associated with the late Louis Malle. A courteous, avuncular man, he still talks in a hesitant style and you might not guess that in *The Horseman on the Roof* he has made the most expensive picture in French film history."

As a director, his output has been sparse. The first film he directed, *La Vie de Chateau*,



Jean-Paul Rappeneau: "I felt free to make changes"

won the Prix Louis Delluc in 1966, but he made only three further features in the 25 years before his spectacular 1989 success with *Cyrano de Bergerac*.

"Each time I need to find a very strong motivation," he says. "Each film becomes more important than everything else in my life. I am hallucinated by the work. So I need time to warm up the motor again, to find the object of my next passion."

There was a seven-year pause before *Cyrano de Bergerac*. My earlier films were all comedies. I liked comedy because you have the audible

evidence of success in the audience's laughter. In time I got tired of that, but I didn't know what to do next.

"Finally I realised I needed to find something more operative — stories of destiny, love and death. *Cyrano* gave me what I was looking for. I always dreamt of being able to devise a choreography of camera movement that would reflect the movements of the heart and sentiments, and *Cyrano* gave me courage. After that, instead of wondering what original story I could make up, I thought what book have I always thought unadaptable that I can now try to

film? So I came to *The Horseman on the Roof*.

"The other important thing that happened with *Cyrano* was that I met Ezio Frigerio, the production designer, and his wife Franca Squarciapino, who does the costumes. They have a very Italian sense of beauty and colour, and through them I have discovered a new pictorial means. We compose a human picture. We love to use movement — a gesture with a hat or a trail of smoke."

"In *Cyrano* we collaborated to re-imagine the 17th century. When we came to *The Horseman* we were looking for another era to recreate, and we found it in 19th-century Romanticism. I am fascinated by 19th-century literature — Hugo, Balzac, Flaubert, Stendhal — and I wanted to make a film that would explain the Romantic moment in decor."

"A lot of film-makers have wanted to make the film at various times during the past 40 years, but one of the things that stopped them was the problem of who could play the hero. At different times Gerard Philippe and Alain Delon were considered."

"I knew I wanted a very young man who still had something of childhood in him. I looked at all the young actors in France and chose Olivier Martinez from tests. He looked superb, of course, the perfect romantic hero, and he has incredible courage and energy."

"Casting Juliette Binoche was a different matter. I had long dreamt of filming with her: she has exactly the qualities of energy, imperiousness and, above all, mystery of Giono's Pauline."

'A MINOR MASTERPIECE... SO SIMPLE IT VERGES ON THE SUBLIME'

The White Balloon

a film by JAFAR PANAH

'IMMACULATE... A GEM'

'REMARKABLE'

'MESMERISING'

'ENCHANTING'

WINNER WINNER WINNER

RENOIR RIZY



CHOICE 1

Julia McKenzie goes through the Communicating Doors one last time

VENUE: This week at the Gielgud Theatre



CHOICE 2

David Bamber plays Hook in a new staging of Peter Pan

VENUE: Opening tonight, West Yorkshire Playhouse

THE ARTS



CHOICE 3

... while Harry Secombe is in expansive form for Pickwick

VENUE: Now running, Manchester Opera House



DANCE

The Royal Ballet trawls the country for the Bussells and Guillems of the future

Nadine Meisner sees heartbreak and hope as would-be stars strut their stuff

Stepping out for stardom?

Brenda Garratt-Glassman guides the juniors through their audition. "Relax," the teacher urges. Grave little faces, hair in regulation ballet buns, obediently loosen and smile, only to pinch up seconds later.

It is not easy when you have a number card pinned to your chest, and your smallest move, your every contour is being scrutinised: when you know the outcome means acceptance or the opposite to a Royal Ballet School summer course or possibly even to the school proper. It takes courage when, after a group exercise, you have to stand for long minutes in lines of four in front of the audition panel while notes are made about you. What else can you do other than gaze politely in the vague distance or smile shakily or lick your lips nervously? Most of these children will fall through the enormous holes of the selection sieve, and they know it.



Dancing hopefully: Royal Ballet School auditions at Little Eastleigh in Hampshire

Now in its sixth year, the Royal Ballet School's Search For Talent programme is scouring the country with auditions that started in December and will finish in London in late March. A road team of assessors, led by Garratt-Glassman and pianist is touring to 11 regional centres, from Glasgow to Southampton, Swansea to Newcastle. Recently, the scheme crossed the Channel to take advantage of the "open market" offered by the European Union: it holds auditions in Spain and Italy.

The school wants the best to feed the best to the two Royal Ballet companies: these still rely on the school for the bulk of their dancers. It has introduced not only the one-week and two-week summer schools in London, to be filled during the current round of auditions, but also junior and senior associate preparatory regional classes which children attend over several terms as a supplement to their local teachers.

Lesley Collier, until recently the Royal Ballet's leading ballerina, now ballet mistress of the Upper School, formed one half of the adjudicating panel with William Glassman, the scheme's administrator. She remembered her own audition when she was 11, and how she felt at a disadvantage because she was pitched against an older, more experienced girl. Then, things were on a more modest, less intimidating scale, and having (wrongly) decided she hadn't a chance, she had ended up enjoying herself.

Parents are not allowed to watch the auditions, which might put their children off. At Southampton they are shepherded to another room by Nigel Grant, the school's assistant director, for a talk about the academic education and other facilities on offer. Applicants come from a wide social spectrum, including some whose parents may be daunted by the prospect of sending their children away to become boarders at the Lower School. (Upper School students live in approved outside accommodation.)

The school is keen to emphasise that lack of parental income should not discourage families. It has not been touched by the student grant crisis as much as other theatre and dance schools

have: direct grants from the Education and Employment Department offer help to parents, topped up when necessary by the school's endowment fund.

The Southampton junior group seems a particularly tense bunch despite the practised efforts of Garratt-Glassman to jolly them up. "Don't worry if you get your arms wrong. It doesn't matter," she tells them during one tricky exercise with arms and legs swinging in opposition. "Just dance. Enjoy it."

Of course, without a real joy for dance, a child can never become successful, but what else

is the panel hoping to find? "A combination of co-ordination, musicality, energy, flexibility and theatricality," says Glassman. The junior class that Garratt-Glassman teaches is designed to explore all those qualities, starting with natural walking and jogging to warm-up, going on to combinations demanding varied rhythms and intricate limb co-ordination, then jumps to show elevation and speed.

Taleness in girls is no longer considered an obstacle as professional companies now like long, narrow outlines. Number 23 is tall — and the only boy. Boys are at a premium.

LONDON

COMMUNICATING DOORS Last week for Julia McKenzie in a new staging of the play, one of the most powerful and moving of the last 20 years. The play is a powerful and moving of the last 20 years. The play is a powerful and moving of the last 20 years.

CARMEN Peter Knapp's acclaimed production of the play, one of the most powerful and moving of the last 20 years. The play is a powerful and moving of the last 20 years.

ANGELIKA KIRCHCHLAGER She may not be a household name, but she is a powerful and moving of the last 20 years. The play is a powerful and moving of the last 20 years.

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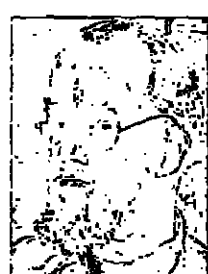
Cheek by Jowl's dark and astonishing *Duchess of Malfi* comes to London



POP

The mellowed and matured Mac Rebennack, alias Dr John, prepares for residency in Soho

THE TIMES ARTS



VISUAL ART

A latter-day William Blake? The visionary work of David Jones is surveyed in a centenary show



TOMORROW

How will the liberated George Michael fare in 1996? Alan Jackson reads pop music's tea leaves

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale delights in a production which drops the dramatic stereotype

Terrible twins are born again

Duchess of Malfi
Wyndhams

Cheek by Jowl's Edwardian-period revival of Webster's great, gruesome tragedy seemed strikingly original when I caught it in Oxford in October, but after three months on the road it has grown into something that is extraordinary bordering on astonishing. I am tempted to talk you through Declan Donnellan's production scene by scene, pointing out how and why it differs from conventional stagings. But since that would send my review carting on to page 94, let me evoke just one encounter between Anastasia Hille's Duchess and her twin, Scott Handy's Ferdinand.

It is Act III, scene ii. Duke Ferdinand, furious at his sister's downmarket marriage, sidles into her bedroom and not too subtly suggests that she kill herself. He gives her a dagger, threatens and terrorises her, then disappears bug-eyed into the night, leaving her wanly protesting, "You are too strict." She is passive; he is a hyperactive maniac. He is evil; she is good. At any rate, that is how the encounter is usually played.

Not here. Hille's Duchess slaps Ferdinand to the floor, leaps onto him, menaces him with the dagger, then laughs, coolly pours herself a Scotch, continues doing her hair, and makes mocking monkey noises while he wildly blusters and bangs into the furniture. Then the mood switches, and she is cuddling and comforting him before it switches again, and he makes a blundering exit, happily mouthing promises never to see her again.

Incredible, absurd, an extreme example of the way contemporary directors impose 20th-century psychology on Jacobean melodrama? Well, go and see for yourself. It may sound as if Donnellan is more trick cyclist than responsible producer, but that is far from the effect in the theatre. Rather, you feel you are witnessing the half-comic, half-horror death throes of a dark, deep bond that perhaps only twins can fully understand. What Donnellan does is substitute human richness for theatrical stereotype.



In the relationship between Hille's Duchess and Handy's Ferdinand can be seen the half-comic, half-horror death throes of the twins' bond

After all, must the Duchess act as if she has parachuted in, not just from some nice family, but from a higher moral plane? And must her brother seem strong rather than weak because he is powerful? Nowadays we expect directors to ask similar questions of Shakespeare, and would be amazed to get a wetly virtuous Cordelia or a straightforwardly venomous Goneril. Hille and Handy admittedly take corrective interpretation a long way:

but never over the top. She cuts a cool, confident figure, and though you also sense a longing for affection and simplicity, it is second nature in her to intimidate and not be intimidated. When that mad nocturnal prowler, her brother, reveals that the hand he has given her is severed and cold, what does she do after she has winced and thrown it aside? Why, pick it up and drop it into the wastepaper-basket, as any house-proud princess should.

Hille's is a wonderful performance — tough yet sensitive, sardonic yet packed with ruefully observed pain — and Handy's is very good. The impression his big, soft face gives is of an overgrown tot floundering in a world he can smash but never comprehend. Behind the strutting, the tears and the obsessive games-playing — what did he and his overbearing sister get up to in the nursery? — Handy suggests someone profoundly bewildered by his own emotions.

How can he be so angry, so bitter, so vengeful?

Much has improved since Oxford in October. Paul Brennan, as the third of these nightmare siblings, adds a certain agony of soul to his portrait of Hummel in Cardinal's purple. As the Duchess's illicit husband, Antonio, Matthew Macfadyen suggests a nervousness of heart and, with it, an uneasy marriage. The worry, if any, is George Anton's performance as the spy cum assassin Bosola, a character whose mix of the ambition-driven and conscience-stricken has attracted many a major actor. Couldn't he be more, well, interesting?

Yes; but, if so, wouldn't that distract attention from the dysfunctional family at the centre? It is a question for Donnellan and his cast to ponder as they perform in London and then continue what promises to be, even by Cheek by Jowl's standards, a surprisingly successful world tour.

Tossed in the myths of time

Rachel Campbell-Johnston reviews
a touring show marking the
centenary of the artist David Jones

David Jones is often regarded as a somewhat whimsical and eccentric figure, isolated from the mainstream of modern art. His choice of subject matter can seem willfully obscure. Like William Blake, with whom he is often compared — inevitable, perhaps, for an artist who ranked equally as a writer and painter — Jones is a visionary. His imagination is furnished with the iconography of lost historical worlds, the gods and heroes of classical and Celtic myth. He explores alchemical symbols and esoteric law. His ideas, shaped by his Catholic faith, wander among the themes of metamorphosis and transubstantiation.

Something of this complexity can be seen in the scrawled diagram which furnishes the title of a touring exhibition marking the centenary of Jones's birth. *A Map of the Artist's Mind*. At the centre are the words "French and German Romance", around which a pattern of arrows circulates in a complex flow, interconnecting such scribbled ideas as "Syr Gawayne & the Greene Knyghte", "Development of Eucharistic cultus", and "Magical Gnosticism".

The exhibition, currently in Hove, aims to lead the viewer through this labyrinth. Chronology is eschewed in favour of theme, so that trends and patterns of thought emerge more clearly.

The ideas which defined Jones as an artist — the Catholic church and its liturgy, his experiences as a young man fighting as a private in France during the First World War, his strong feeling for the natural world and sense of being rooted in the landscape of Welsh culture — are all introduced in the exhibition's opening sections.

Jones worked and reworked these ideas throughout his artistic career. They enrich and expand into more complex work. In the section of this exhibition called "History and Romance" the painting *Study for Aphrodite in Aulis* seems at first a bewildering swirl of spindly lines through which assorted images flutter. But as the eye travels over the surface it picks out the details: the two semi-naked soldiers flanking

the Roman goddess on her plinth, the lamb bleeding into a chalice, the female warrior with a Christos symbol emblazoned on her shield. Gradually, the subject matter organises itself into Jones's vision of woman as something both violated and venerated.

Similarly, in the section labelled "Of Metamorphosis and Mutability", still-lives such as *Briar Cup* or *Mehefin* show the sacred dimension seeping into secular subject matter. Household objects such as a vase or a table are transmuted into chalice and altar, the ritual objects of the Mass. Briars, with their red-



The Greeting to Mary, 1963: a typically intricate drawing by David Jones

tipped barbs, draw parallels to Christ's crown of thorns.

Jones's works create a vibrant field of tremulous line and flickering colour, characterised by a graceful fluidity and spontaneity. As the layers of imagery build up, signs slip into symbols, notations into connotations. In this, his vision is not isolated from, but in tune with, other 20th-century art: with the work of painters like Derain and Modigliani, who tried to make sense of modernist form through traditional references, or neo-surrealists like Paul Delvaux, who mixed archetypal or mythic references with personal preoccupations.

David Jones, 1895-1974: *A Map of the Artist's Mind* is at Hove Museum and Art Gallery until Jan 28, and at the National Museum & Gallery, Cardiff from Feb 17 to Apr 14

JAZZ: As Dr John prepares for London, Clive Davis asks the maestro of gumbo what makes a good hoodoo man

Night trip with medicine man

Many people still remember him as the Night Tripper, but those wild, psychedelic days are long gone, and Mac Rebennack — alias Dr John — has now taken on many of the traits of that 1990s archetype, the Concerned Parent. For years he lived in the louche Manhattan neighbourhood of Chelsea, but with his teenage children passing more and more crack dealers on the streets, he eventually decided to move across town to sedate Murray Hill.

Inside his lounge, though, it could almost be New Orleans at twilight. The tall, shuttered windows, oil paintings, full-length mirrors and luxuriant tapestries would not be out of place in an Anne Rice novel. They provide the ideal backdrop for a larger-than-life figure who was once a practising voodoo priest and who would ramble onto the stage in full Mardi Gras regalia. He has lived in New York since the 1970s. New Orleans,

he points out mournfully, lacks the infrastructure of clubs and top-flight studios to support its musicians nowadays. But whenever he goes back, to see his relations or do some fishing in the bayou, he feels as if he had never left.

Rebennack will be serving up his brand of Louisiana gumbo in Soho from Monday, when he plays a week at Ronnie Scott's. At 55, he has mellowed into an elder statesman who is quite at home jamming with his old friend Eric Clapton or, as on *Afterglow*, his most recent album, singing *Blue Skies* and other standards with a big band.

Through all his many incarnations, he has stayed true to the freewheeling spirit of his home town. An errant Jesuit-school pupil, he was more interested in whiling away the hours in the nightclubs than mastering the catechism. By his early teens he was already making a living as a guitarist, copying phrases from T-Bone Walker records.

It was not long before he was also initiated into the murkier world of drug-taking. A flirtation with marijuana led first to pill-popping and then long-term heroin addiction. The whole messy business is described in his 1994 autobiography, *Under a Hoodoo Moon*, an unflinching book overflowing with underworld characters, strung-out musicians and incidents which do not bear repeating in a family newspaper. It was not until about five years ago that he finally took the cure.

Rebennack's alter ego, Dr John, first emerged in the mid-1960s, the fruit of his lifelong fascination with the New Orleans variant of voodoo, known as gris-gris. The origi-



Mac Rebennack: from voodoo to jobbing musician

nal Dr John had been a phantom-like New Orleans medicine man in the 19th century. Rebennack adopted his name for a recording session with a group of musi-

cians who were supposed to be working on a Sonny and Cher record. The result was the incantatory album *Gris Gris*, with its tale of the Night Tripper roaming the streets

with his bag of magic remedies in his hand.

The record had all the correct pseudo-mystical trappings for its era, and Dr John was taken up as a symbol of the counter-culture. By this time he had made the transition to playing piano — a change forced on him when he was shot in one of the fingers of his left hand during a scuffle with an irate motel owner.

For all the theatricality of Dr John, Rebennack retains the instincts of the jobbing musician. Everyone from Aretha Franklin to Van Morrison has called on his services, and the best of his own recordings were assembled on an entertaining Rhino compilation entitled *Mos' Scousies*. Record company executives, however, have not always treated him with respect. As he surveys the music scene, he takes on the

weary tone of Angry of Bourbon Street.

"There's a lot of ho-hum music across the board. There would be a lot better records if there were more people on the case. Most of the records you hear on the radio are out of tune. How can a rap singer not have good rhythm? He ain't singing, so he should at least have good time if he's supposed to be grooving. Kids are growing up hearing this, and that's all they know. Things could be worse, but they could be a whole lot better."

Dr John is at Ronnie Scott's, 47 Friar Street, London W1 0171-134 0747 from Monday

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Opening fire in the real culture wars

Roger Scruton finds political correctness alive and well, despite claims that it never existed

For some years it has been rumoured that American universities are being taken over by a leftist thought-police, determined to erase all vestiges of elitism, racism, sexism, heterosexism, ageism, lookism, speciesism etc., and to replace them by isms of another kind — Marxism and feminism especially. Studies and books have been devoted to the phenomenon, while politicians, journalists and commentators of a conservative persuasion have made such a meal of "PC" that no one would now describe himself as "politically correct", without first encasing the phrase in inverted commas.

Yet, John Wilson argues, the whole thing is a fabrication, propagated by conservative academics and the foundations which fund them, in order to obscure the real attack on higher education, which comes not from the Left but from the Right. Conservatives, who wish to impose their authoritarian curriculum on the rest of us, regard the open discussion of alternatives as intrinsically threatening. By posing as the victims of oppression, they have cleverly seized the high ground, so opening the way to oppression of their own.

Four years ago I went to teach in Boston University. I was as politically incorrect as a professor can be, notorious both at home and abroad for opinions which, in the context of an academic career, have nothing to recommend them apart from their truth. I went in dread of the slogan-chanting students, the signed letters of protest from frosty colleagues and disciplinary tribunals which I had read about with amazement in the American right-wing press. I was genuinely surprised to find myself treated by both colleagues and students as a normal member of the human species. Nobody seemed interested in my personal opinions, and the curriculum was very much the old curriculum — although more open to innovation and experiment than the European original. My immediate impression was that either PC had disappeared, or it had never really existed.

As Wilson points out, the critics of campus fashions have been more too careful in checking their facts, in giving chapter and verse, or in distin-

THE MYTH OF POLITICAL CORRECTNESS

By John K. Wilson
Duke University Press, £13.95

guishing the attempt to subvert the curriculum from the desire merely to revise it. Many of the martyrs to PC turn out merely to be academics with one of their habitual grievances. The notorious "speech-codes" adopted here and there in universities were seldom applied, and have in any case been struck down by the courts. Even "multiculturalism" is, in Wilson's reading of events, little more than an attempt to extend the old curriculum, and as for feminism, gay libera-



John Silber: singled out

tion, and the rest, they are nothing but points of view, with a right to expression within the academy that is equal to the right accorded to all matters of public concern.

A plausible argument, and one well backed up with case studies and statistics. But not, in the end, convincing. An English reader of Wilson's narrative will be struck by the fact that every conservative teacher or writer that he mentions is identified by his political colours, and that all questions concerning the curriculum are described in political terms. The curriculum advances, for Wilson, by including "discussion" of issues which were not previously mentioned — and the issues belong always to someone's political agenda. Feminism and gay liberation are as entitled to a place on the curriculum as — well, as conservatism, family values, what have you.

In my view, however, none of these things has a place, as such, on the curriculum, since none is an academic subject. If

I oppose feminism as a classroom topic, it is not because I wish to put family values in the place of it. It is because I want to get on with teaching the *Critique of Pure Reason*, with analysing Schubert's String Quintet, or with understanding the character of Milton's Satan. For Wilson the university is nothing but a vast talking shop, in which political opinions strive to be heard in open competition with their rivals. It has been absorbed into the democratic process, and become a chamber of opinion whose ultimate meaning is political. Wilson is a graduate student in social science, and a product of the very outlook which — because he has no first-hand knowledge of the tradition opposed to it — he alleges not to exist. The success of PC consists precisely in that it is no longer perceivable.

One very small instance (not mentioned by Wilson) will illustrate what I mean. The *Pennsylvania Law Review*, one of the major outlets for legal scholarship in America, now refuses to accept for publication any article that does not use the feminine pronoun throughout. No matter that this is stylistically impossible for anyone with a feel for the English language, no matter that it automatically imputes feminist opinions to the author. That is what you have to do if you are to be published; and if you cannot get your articles published in journals such as the *Pennsylvania Law Review*, you have no chance of a career teaching law. Not only does this show how liberal orthodoxy is enforced in the American academic establishment, it also illustrates the new conception of scholarship as part of a "struggle", the goal of which is not truth but power.

The "culture wars" are only just beginning, and the explicit terrorism which excited the media was a passing episode, long ago scotched by conservative antibodies. But I am not sure that my experience at Boston University was typical. For its president, John Silber, is singled out for special abuse by Wilson, as someone prepared to impose his iron will in order to punish all those who dissent from the conservative line. The freedom from politicisation which I observed is seen by Wilson as another kind of politicisation, and one far more antithetical to "academic freedom".

That is surely what we should mean by political correctness — the attitude which sees all questions as political, and all impartial scholarship as a mask for some conservative agenda. Wilson argues for the mythical nature of political correctness, only in ways which show that he is deep down politically correct.

Drying ink and art that is God's grandchild

David Ekserdjian

GIOTTO

By Francesca Flores d'Arcais
Abbeville, £72



A question of attribution: *Charity* (1305), from the Scrovegni Chapel in Padua, was painted after the *Life of St Francis* in Assisi, which some have credited to Giotto

Everybody — and that includes the most fervently patriotic Sienese — agrees that Giotto is the father of modern painting. Dante set the seal on his fame during his lifetime in a passage on the vanity of worldly aspirations that ought to have had the opposite effect. In Canto XI of the *Purgatorio*, a character explains that just as in the field of poetry Guido Guinizelli has been surpassed by Guido Cavalcanti, so now in painting Giotto is the star where once Cimabue reigned supreme. But the passage continues with a self-congratulatory prophecy that someone will soon outclass the second Guido, though without exploring the implication that in due course Dante himself, and Giotto with him, will also be surpassed.

The truth is that from our point of view what comes after is never really better, only different. However, where our sense of Dante's greatness is inspired above all by the *Divine Comedy* and the *Vita Nuova*, the position in relation to Giotto is less straightforward, and divides the world according to pretty crude nationalistic boundaries. The bone of contention is the series of frescoes of the *Life of St Francis* in the Upper Basilica at Assisi.

In a nutshell, Italian art historians cannot bear to relinquish the idea that this cycle of pictures was not in the main planned and executed by the young Giotto before he moved on to decorate the Scrovegni Chapel in Padua. The rest of the world does not agree, and assigns the various scenes to a team of masters whose identities are lost in the mists of time. If Giotto was at Assisi at all early on, then maybe he painted the Old Testament scenes given to the painter otherwise known as the Isaac Master.

There is something irritatingly painful about being told that something is not by a great master, just as there is something dangerously attractive about downgrading a much-loved work and watching its fans squirm. The pitched battle over Rembrandt has confused the issue, because it has been implied that passion is engendered by the financial consequences of a decision. The Assisi problem demonstrates that opposing camps can disagree just as virulently without the hovering presence of the art

market. Denying the *St Francis* cycle to Giotto is tantamount to proposing that Shakespeare did not write *Hamlet* and *King Lear* — which is a popular enough sport, but not the best way to win friends.

Professor Flores d'Arcais has written an Italian book on Giotto, but even an anti-Assisian like myself should be grateful for that. It does not carry a big enough Government Attribution Warning for my taste, but it has the supreme merit of presenting the visual evidence with admirable thoroughness. Assisi, Padua and the rest are lavishly and copiously illustrated, often with stunning details. The only regret is that full page illustrations are occasionally bizarrely juxtaposed so that details, which are meant to be separate, look disconcertingly continuous. The overwhelming impression, and that in spite of the extraordinary power of the *Ognissanti Madonna* since its recent restoration, is that Giotto is at his best as a painter of frescoes, not panels.

Another great tradition of Giotto studies has been to focus only on his formal achievements, and turn him into some sort of Cubist avant la lettre, at the expense of his gift for storytelling and emotion. In this respect, the professor can hardly be faulted, for although there is something laughable about even a flyleaf puff calling a book on Giotto "definitive", she is certainly on the right track. She understands the narrative magic of painting an Evangelist blowing on his pen to dry the ink, and for that one can forgive her a lot.

Oddly enough, even if one were to accept that Giotto was responsible for the *Life of St Francis*, it would have to be acknowledged that he went up several gears in the Scrovegni Chapel. In the unlikely event of my being asked onto *Desert Island Discs*, I always thought I might ask to have it as my luxury, provided I promised not to use it to shelter from the rain.

A thorn in the Crown

Woodrow Wyatt

DYNASTY

By Donald Spoto
Simon & Schuster, £16.99

considers that "this single action alone hurts the chances of the Monarchy continuing".

If Spoto's book had been written after the Princess Diana *Panorama* show he would have exulted. For him it would have been proof positive of his assertion that the monarchy is doomed. "The young Windsors cannot be taken seriously, and so sovereignty itself is no longer even a beneficial public relations device. Right there, in the palace and royal castles, live those who are causing the fall of the House of Windsor."

The author, demonstrating how learned he is, refers to Bagehot: "When there is a Select Committee on the Queen, the charm of royalty will be gone. Its mystery is its life. We must not let daylight in upon magic." But Walter

Bagehot lived before long distance cameras could catch royal unawares, and before Princess Diana incited her friends to tell Andrew Morton how horrible her husband was. Spoto's book abounds in innuendos about the alleged love lives of other royal personages. To add feather weight to his gossip, he drags in Prince Philip's joke about "slitty eyes", made while in China. I have not heard of any Chinese complaints — they probably laughed.

We also have the customary cliché of the Queen's personal

wealth being £6.6 billion, bringing in £2 million interest daily. This scholar was apparently unable to discover that very little of this allegedly vast fortune actually belongs to her. The Queen's personal wealth, knowing how badly bankers invest, is unlikely to be more than £120 million, from which she makes all manner of payments to royalty not on the Civil List.

And how strange that, despite his supposed diligence, he never refers to the Prince Regent (George IV) and his unparalleled public quarrels with Queen Caroline of Brunswick. Every tavern in the country was plastered with cartoons of them throwing excreta at each other. Nor does he refer to George IV's fury on failing to persuade the House of Lords to give him a divorce

and how later, at his Coronation, Caroline battered at the doors of Westminster Abbey demanding to be crowned and was driven violently away.

The author cannot take on board the idea that the institution of monarchy belongs to the people, not to the Sovereign. Apart from a few nutters, we prefer to salute a living symbol of royal blood, not a mere flag or some deadbeat politician elected as president. When a monarch is thought unsuitable a more satisfactory replacement is found. It happened to Charles I, James II and Edward VIII. We (and the world) remain fascinated by our monarchy, not only for its glamour, but also its utility. The entire system of justice, without Regina V, would be overturned if we were a republic. The United Kingdom would become disunited. The Head of the Commonwealth, valued by its members, would be gone and that unifying force would vanish.

Racism does not change its spots

Anne McElvoy

BLACK ENGLAND

Life before Emancipation
By Gretchen Gerzina
John Murray, £19.99

Reliable accounts tell us that a continuous black presence in Britain began in 1555 when five men were officially welcomed to London as promoters of trade between the continents. It did not take long for hospitality to cease to distrust and the first choruses of "Blacks Go Home". By 1596, the number of African immigrants — mainly slaves — had reached such visible proportions that there was considerable public antipathy towards them, grounded — *plus ça change* — in fears that they might take jobs and goods away from the English. Queen Elizabeth I issued an ineffectual edict ordering them to leave, calling on her subjects to denounce "persons which are possessed of any such blackamoors that refuse to deliver them".

With the cultivation of the colonies in the West Indies, the number of black servants rose rapidly again. By the mid-18th century, some 30,000 were at work in London alone out of an urban population of 670,000. Gretchen Gerzina's book reminds us that Britain

was a mixed-race society long before the great influx after the Second World War. The world of Johnson, Pope and Hogarth was shared by African slaves and their descendants, many still in the service of the wealthy, but some making their way to prosperity and social status as artists, tradesmen and participants in the great literary and political debates of their day.

Johnson was famously devoted to his Jamaican servant, Francis Barber, whom he educated and eventually made his heir — a familiar story which Gerzina expands into a revealing account of affection across social barriers. One of the most charming and enlightening of her tales, however, is that of Ignatius Sancho, born on a slave-ship,



A British Rail recruitment centre in 1955: with the railways short of 20,000 workers, West Indians were again welcomed to Britain — but racial tensions soon re-emerged

who became butler to the Duchess of Montague and later a friend of Garrick's and a correspondent of Sterne's. Like many a later incomer, the quick-witted Sancho discovered that the key to the English heart was irony-shaped.

Sancho wrote scores of self-deprecating letters, for both private and public consumption, that mocked his own appearance and background.

"Figure to yourself," he expostulated on declining to serve his parish offices, "A man of conveyity of belly exceeding Falstaff — and a black face into the bargain — waddling in the van of poor thieves and penniless prostitutes". He would very likely have found some of his countrymen among them. Gerzina's account of the lives of the black poor and the challenges they

provided to English compassion and policy-making is excellent, as is her description of the run-up to liberation and the key court cases which gave the cause of abolition a legal as well as a moral basis.

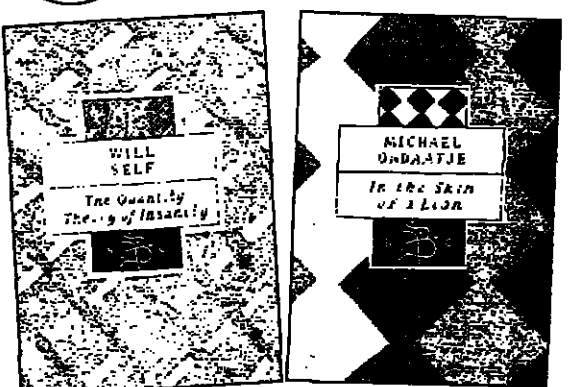
Black England is particularly useful in correcting our visual image of those times — dark faces were, as she notes, "as familiar a sight to the black poor and the challenges they

rick, and almost as familiar to both as they are to Londoners today". The unstable mixture of sentimental empathy on the one hand, fear and distrust on the other, with which the educated classes greeted the incomers is instantly recognisable now as we seek to define relations between ethnic groups in Britain.

Regrettably, given the intriguing subject matter, the book is rather flatly written in parts. In common with many modern writers of popular history, Gerzina has adopted a purely episodic approach to her meticulously gathered material and eschewed wider debate about the socio-political impact of the awareness of racial differences.

Given the breadth of her knowledge, I would, for instance, have liked to hear her engage with Stuart Hall's argument that it was the registering of an alien presence in the form of names, heraldry and pictorial art which "produced and sustained an uncodified but immensely powerful, conservative sense of Englishness". With just a few pages to go, she does note that "one of the biggest questions facing Europeans in contact with other peoples was exactly how race and colour worked". A deeper exploration in these areas might have given more breadth and texture to the book and turned it from a rewarding read into an indispensable one.

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By George Steiner
Faber, £19.99

There is a moment in one of George Steiner's stories when an elderly Marxist and a Catholic friar suppose, for the sake of argument, that "We are museum exhibits. Incorrigible chatterers. We are ghosts out of the dark of history..." In fact, they are essentially religious men in an increasingly secular age. Not for the first time Steiner rehearses his cultural concerns within a fictional context. Perhaps it is easier to tell the truth in a story. Yet in one of the essays in his latest collection *No Passion Spent*, he meditates upon Chardin's portrait of an idealised reader, *Le Philosophe Lisant*, whose features bear a resemblance to those of Steiner himself. In the course of a marvellous exposition of the iconography of this painting, he invokes a "ceremony of intellect... the mind's tense apprehension of meaning" which might also apply to his own techniques of exegesis. The whole essay, the whole volume, is a lament for literacy: but it is not a threnody.

That is why he can go on to suggest that there is still time and occasion for a community of ideal readers who will "seek to acquire those rudiments of mythological and scriptural recognition" of shared historical remembrance.

The Uncommon Reader lacks that final pessimism of the protagonists in Steiner's story, in which the claims of visionary or sacred knowledge have been thoroughly obscured and defeated by the world. It may not be too much to suggest, then, that between these two poles, of despair and affirmation, dereliction and aspiration, Steiner's own work can be placed. His central importance lies in this: he is one of the few critics writing in English to suggest that there is a religious as well as a materialist view of the world. He even dares to claim that great literature, and great art, find their true home within a sacred rather

than a secular tradition. His own attempt to reach, and to understand, that tradition is through a broadly Judeo-Christian inheritance. Others have found it within a Protestant hermeneutic in which the values of individual sensibility and (to use Raymond Williams's phrase) the "moral community" are paramount. Still others have sought to define the characteristic spirit of English literature in the light of this country's buried Catholic inheritance. There are many gates, but the path is the same: it leads towards an understanding of poetry, and music, and art, within a reverential sense of life and destiny. That is why Steiner is so savage about America, for example, and why he is so scathing about the English novel of the last forty years. There are occasions when he overstates his case, but what is the point of understatement when so few people are willing to listen?

It is not surprising, therefore, that he is at his best here in his examination of the Bible and in his interpretation of the entire Judeo-Christian inheritance. Through



Steiner seeks the ideal reader

That Glass Darkly, an account of what he describes as "the historical moment which has determined the tragic destiny of the Jew over these past two thousand years", ought to be required reading for anyone who is interested in the history of civilisation. In it Steiner suggests at one point that the refusal of Christ, "the veto of the Jew" as he puts it, sprang from

Jewish idealism and messianic hope; we might say that, for the Jews, Christ was not enough. It is an insight upon which he elaborates in another essay, *Two Cocks*, where he suggests that "there is at the very roots of Christianity a strong pulse of Jewish self-hatred". So we proceed from Golgotha to Auschwitz, and Steiner aptly quotes Kafka to the effect that "there is abundant hope, but there is none for us".

The arrival of Kafka in this context is not altogether unexpected since, in the course of this volume, Steiner does intimate the existence of a "canon" of Western literature: he expounds what might be called a tradition of secular scriptures. It is an exclusive affair, necessarily, and those of an Anglo-Saxon sensibility might be bruised by the absence here of most of the English writers of the last seven centuries. Yet Steiner chooses his texts carefully, and there are interesting essays on Kafka and Husserl, Simone Weil and Keirkegaard. This suggests what we ought already to have guessed — he is primarily interest-

ed in those writers who convey an identifiable metaphysical or spiritual position. There is more than a trace of German Idealism in his own criticism, which allows him to prefer philosophers who write like novelists as well as novelists who write like philosophers.

In turn he is unconvinced by the theatrical, the pantomimic, or the comic. If there is anything missing in this book, it is laughter. Yet he can be very incisive when faced with what might be called recalcitrant material: of Shakespeare, he quotes Wittgenstein's remark that he was "perhaps a creator of language rather than a poet". It is similar to the question of medieval debate, "Was Virgil an orator or a poet?"

There are times when reading his essays is like eating pâté to the sound of trumpets, but the suspicion of over-indulgence is justified by the quality of the material being ingested. This reviewer has only one serious disagreement with the argument of the book, and it concerns Steiner's respect for Goethe's notion of "world literature".

There really is no such thing. Perhaps one can continue the culinary metaphor for a moment longer — if it exists it is the literary equivalent of airline food, eatable by all but palatable to none. Only a literature imbued with the awareness of its own origins can truly aspire to universality.

So one may turn to Steiner's own stories. Characteristically he enters the mind of the outcast or the exile, investing him with strange powers of memory and wrath. His style is sometimes close to that of De Quincey, sometimes to the *Maturin* of *Melmoth the Wanderer*. His fiction is best seen as a late-20th-century version of the Gothic fable, in which the horrors have turned out to be real. A German officer returns to the area of France which he once terrorised; Hitler is found in the jungles of South America. His protagonists relieve the circumstances of warfare and extermination, themselves seeming to desire death or punishment in some form of expiation. The plots are extravagant, the language intense, and there is always a suspicion of stage thunder in the wings, but all is lifted upon powerful cadences of lamentation and revelation. And there, of course, Steiner's genius eventually resides.

Dispatches from a battle of giants

Bernard Levin discovers that one man's will can be enough to defy a brutal regime and to triumph over it

This is a story in which there is great pain but also great heroism — heroism that modestly denies itself and claims that it was only doing right. But before the story comes on to the stage, there is a miracle to deal with. When the Soviet Union collapsed, mountains of documents had been left undestroyed; there are still seekers among the ruins trying to find papers concerning their particular field. And among the survivors, there was, absolutely intact, the complete files concerning the great fight of Alexander Solzhenitsyn v Soviet Union.

The head of the state throughout this story was Brezhnev, and he made one mistake, which turned out to be crucial. If he had seen even a short way into the future, he would have had Solzhenitsyn murdered, because the hero was then hardly known in his country and even less outside. But by the time Solzhenitsyn had started his fight for the truth, that towering figure was well enough known round the world not to be killed or even thrown into a dungeon.

This book consists of every reference to Solzhenitsyn by the Soviet state throughout the great

THE SOLZHENITSYN FILES
Edited by Michael Scammell
Edition Q, £21.95

struggle. Every statement of the hero's fight was noted word for word and every word Solzhenitsyn spat in the face of Brezhnev and his sycophants had to be swallowed and put on paper.

The fun began early; the entire Politburo were again and again called together to find a way to stop one man who wielded nothing but a pen. Hundreds — literally hundreds — of hours were eaten up with the Solzhenitsyn problem. And as their rage mounted, so did the hero's cool.

Almost on the first page, Andropov — who was always supposed to be the most sophisticated of the brutes — is found saying: "The question of Solzhenitsyn goes beyond working with [foreign] writers. He has written certain things... that are anti-Soviet in nature. We should take decisive measures to deal with Solzhenitsyn, for he is involved in anti-Soviet activities."

Yes, indeed, they should take decisive measures, but unfortunately their decisive measures are treated by Solzhenitsyn like this: "I propose that the congress demand and ensure the abolition of all censorship, open or hidden, of imaginative literature, and release publishing houses from the obligation to obtain clearance for every printed page... I propose that all guarantees provided by the [Writers'] Union for the defence of members subjected to slander and unjust persecutions be clearly formulated... so that the past illegality will not be repeated."

There were other heroes who stood up for the giant, Tarkovsky, Rostropovich, Yevushenko and others risked their careers, but of



Voiceless in his own country, Solzhenitsyn's words spoke of Russia's plight throughout the world

course there were dozens of creatures ready to slander him when the appropriate whistle was blown. But once, the entire structure came crashing down on their heads: it was when Solzhenitsyn was given the Nobel Prize for Literature. Every stop had been pulled out to minimise the occasion, and the Communist parties around the world were called to order. But, beginning with *L'Unita*, one by one — *L'Humanité*, *Volkstimm* [Austria], *Land og Folk* [Netherlands], *Kansan Uutis* [Finland], *Borba* [Yugoslavia], *Politika* [Sweden], even our *Morning Star* (always the most craven when father cracked the whip) sang the praises of the great genius instead of what they had been ordered to do. And there was an enchanting envoi: the report on the debate ended with these words: "All these newspapers have

been confiscated by the Glavlit controller and prevented from going on sale." Yet again a shovelful of hacks were lined up to denounce a man whose writing is a thousand times that of his persecutors (not one name has survived). But he responded immediately:

"I did not expect *Literaturny Gazeta* to go that far. What I cannot understand is why they have this system — making others do it... they will never write anything themselves. Böll [the German novelist, a supporter of Solzhenitsyn] was right. We should not bark back, and try to react to everything. If things have gone so far that the entire world is reading this, they will bark from all directions, and from every lair. We should not pay any attention to this. Let them write. This will be settled by history."

And history was right. One man, with not even the right to publish his work in his own country, so enraged the leaders of that country that they began to be truly afraid of the way he was shaking the foundations of their tyranny. When a complete universe is built on a lie, sooner or later it will fall, and great will be the fall of it.

So, one afternoon, he was bundled into a plane going to West Germany, and he shouted "I will return". He was right about that, too. Now it is said he is a spent force, and few listen to him. I don't believe it; but even if it is true, Alexander Solzhenitsyn made a mark on our world which will never rub off. *I know I am a King's Charles Head when it comes to indexes, but this one is so shoddy and useless it mars the splendid book it defiles.*

ALL GOOD Russian novels are alike, but all bad Russian novels are bad in their own way. Tolstoy didn't write that, but he might have; it certainly applies to this new novel by Yevgeny Yevushenko.

This is by any measure a bad piece of fiction — woodenly written, smudged with cliché, with a plot which is hard to follow — but it is nevertheless an interesting one. If read as an historical document rather than a work of literature, it is even quite absorbing.

Yevushenko, for those who do not know him already, is a Russian poet, famous both for his clumsy verse and a popularity so great that his poetry readings once filled football stadiums. Considered the "voice of a generation" in Khrushchev's 1960 thaw, he evolved into a peculiarly Soviet form of officially recognised dissident. Alternately praised and scorned by Soviet literary officialdom (depending on changes in political winds) he nevertheless accumulated wives and cars at an astonishing rate, was allowed to travel abroad without much trouble, and was, naturally, suspected of more insidious forms of collaboration by all of his fellow writers and poets.

METAPHORICALLY, *Don't Die Before You're Dead* is Yevushenko's attempt to justify a lifetime spent walking a fine line between official approval and genuine dissent. Literally, it is an account of the failed coup carried out against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in August, 1991. Some of the characters seem to be fictional: there is Stepan Palichkov, a police investigator, who joins in the protests around the Russian White House, thereby renewing his love for his estranged wife, Lyza, the decrepit former football star, who also joins the protests, thereby renewing his love for the woman he should have married but did not.

Most of the characters, designated by somewhat odd pseudonyms, are real: The Russian President (Yeltsin), The Human Cello (Rostropovich), The Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Marshal, The Emigre, The Mysterious Speaker, and so on. Yevushenko puts himself in, of course (presumably he thinks of himself as The Poet). And it is true

A poet's novel Russian blend

Anne Applebaum

DON'T DIE BEFORE YOU'RE DEAD

By Yevgeny Yevushenko

Robson Books, £16.99

that he was present on the balcony of the Russian parliament on the day after the coup, when it was clear that the plot had been foiled. He reprints the verse he wrote to commemorate the event at the time: "And the Russian Parliament/ like a wounded marble swan of freedom/ Defended by our people/ swims into eternity."

What is almost interesting about the book is the genuine ambiguity that the author seems to feel about the events he is witnessing. On the one hand, Yevushenko styles himself as a great democrat, proud to be involved in these historic events,

even prouder to describe the time that Gorbachev rang him up, just to chat. (Gorbachev's endorsement appears on the back cover of the novel as well.) He makes it clear to the reader that he knows, personally, all of the major players, from Yeltsin on down.

On the other hand, he feels more than a twinge of regret as the Soviet Union breaks up. As the Soviet flag (or rather The Red Flag, as Yevushenko would call it) is lowered from the Kremlin roof, Lyza recalls "how that flag would be raised to the anthem of a great country that no longer existed, when they played and did not always lose in the stadiums of the world." At the back of the book, Yevushenko even appends a poem of his own, entitled *Goodbye Our Red Flag*. "You were our brother and our enemy," he writes. "Now you are just a narrow red stripe in our Russian Tricolour."

This mix of sentimental nostalgia, sycophancy, political naivety (after all, Yevushenko's beloved Yeltsin was himself training guns on the parliament only a few months later) together with a burning desire to be "progressive", is a classic Russian blend. In expressing it, Yevushenko probably speaks for millions of people in the former Soviet Union. Therein lies his popularity among Russians, and therein lies the reason why he will never receive the same kind of recognition here.



Yevushenko (left) with actor Nicolai Karachentsov during the filming of *Kindergarten* (1979), the author's debut as a director

Spirit and stink bombs

Michael Hamburger is best known for his translations of classic and modern German poetry, his versions of Hölderlin and Rilke in particular being among the best there are in English. He was born in Berlin in 1924, but came to England as a child. Now in his seventies, after a lifetime devoted to the service of other people's verse, his *Collected Poems 1941-1994* reveals him as an interesting poet in his own right.

It comes as no surprise that Hamburger's recurring theme is rootlessness. Images of dispossession haunt him. What is remarkable is the quiet good sense with which he turns his personal predicament into an emblem of the general human condition. A key poem, *Conformist*, begins "Brandenburg in childhood, for thirty years he strove/ To hide the scar", a reference to his early sufferings as a German Jewish immigrant, but ends with two lines which tell a more-than-autobiographical truth: "Come late into the freedom his from birth/ To breathe the air, and walk the ownerless earth." A small triumph of the human spirit is enacted here.

Drawing on the European tradition as much as the English, Hamburger's work ranges from metrical and rhyming explorations of his own melancholy and sense of alienation, to poems that abandon all constraints, formal or moral, and just go off like stink bombs. He calls this latter category his "unpleasantries", and some of these poems are among his strongest pieces, notably those written as if spoken by a character called Mr Littlejohn, a sort of *doppelgänger* who is perhaps everything the poet does not allow himself to be. The longer and more ambitiously philosophical poems seem to me to be

the least successful, and satires such as *Big Deal* do not read as sharply now as they did when they were first published back in the Sixties.

The best of Michael Hamburger, though, is another story altogether. This comes in a number of poems in which his quest for meaning and his delight and despair in language question each other — poems as various as his elegy for his poet-friend Thomas Blackburn in which he ponders the difficulty of finding a rhyme for "suffer", or the poem

Robert Nye

COLLECTED POEMS

1941-1994

By Michael Hamburger

Anvil Press, £25

NORTHBOROUGH

SONNETS

By John Clare

Carcanet, ppb, £9.95

called *Names* where he bewails the impossibility of writing about a daddy-long-legs ("Give any creature a funny name! And not the name but the creature becomes a joke"), or the poem called simply *Words* in which he defines poetry: "A curious trade, I admit/ Turning a thing into words so that words will render the thing."

Hamburger has an informed and unsentimental love for the English countryside which at best reminds me of Edward Thomas and John Clare, and it is fitting that one of his most memorable poems celebrates the latter. At the *Assumption of John Clare to Westminster Abbey* begins: "To walk four nights, three days with one good shoe — That he

got through/Sustained by chewed tobacco and plucked grass./Such trials pass."

Clare's walk came when he escaped from the High Beech asylum in Essex where he had been confined. His *Northborough Sonnets* were written in the five years immediately preceding the time of his confinement.

Edited by Eric Robinson, David Powell and P. M. S. Dawson, this little book is of major importance. It includes 213 sonnets, some 80 of which are published for the first time in a readily accessible form.

Clare's sonnets have been compared to the engravings of the artist Thomas Bewick. Most of them consist in fact of seven end-stopped but swift-flowing couplets, with each couplet a vignette embodying some observation of the natural world. Clare was not happy or at home in Northborough, where he felt himself to be an outcast. Yet the sonnets sing in praise of those things he always enjoyed — the smell of new-made haystacks, the sound of church bells and the rustle of a woman's Sunday gown, "flocking" crows and "greybeard" jackdaws, a ball of grass that turns out to be a mouse's nest with the blind offspring still hanging at their mother's teats.

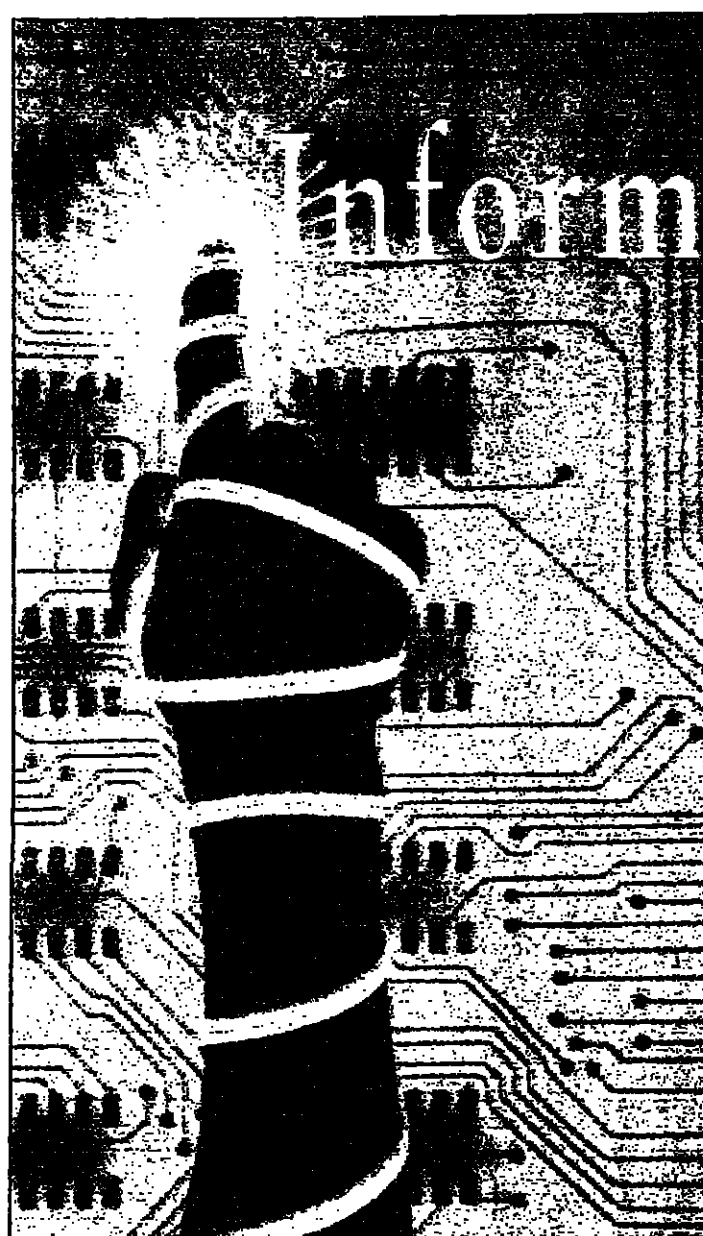
What is achieved in these poems is an inspired absorption of the poet in what he is writing about. Everything is seen close up, as love sees, while punctuation is almost entirely absent and the structure of the language remains colloquial. English poetry needs Clare more than ever now — not to indulge in daydreams of a bucolic past but for the vitality of his vision and the naturalness of his utterance.

Robert Nye's *Collected Poems* are published by Sinclair-Stevenson

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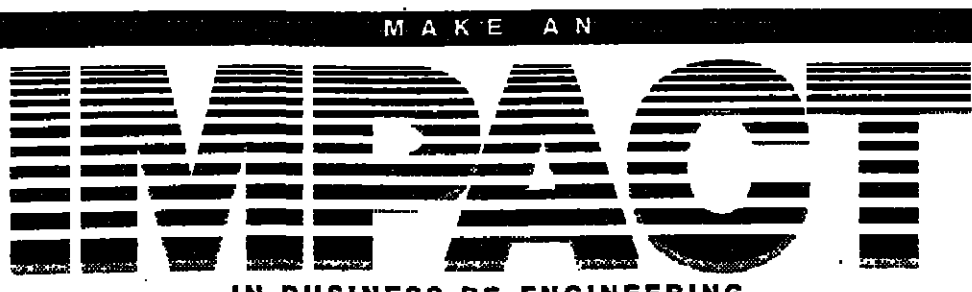
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UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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Teenager puts South Africa in pole position after Cork leads fruitless fightback

Adams drives England to despair

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN CAPE TOWN

CAPE TOWN (second day of five): England, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 74 runs behind South Africa.

IN ONE cruel, contrary hour for England's cricketers yesterday evening, the achievements of a demanding day, and probably the work of an entire winter, turned to dust and dismay. For the second time in this series, South Africa's tenth wicket produced disproportionate runs, investing a crippled innings with undue authority. This time, however, the effect on England will surely be terminal.

Against considerable odds and to their immense credit, England's bowlers had nursed and healed the self-inflicted wounds of their batsmen. This decisive final Test was set for something close to parity at its midway point when South Africa's ninth wicket fell on 171, a lead of only 18. It was then that a day of taut, pitiless cricket took a sharp and implausible diversion.

Paul Adams, raised on backyard cricket just a few miles from Newlands in the mean streets of the Cape Flats, came in to bat without a reputation to protect. He had, after all, scored only four first-class runs and faced just 16 balls in his young career. When he was out, 15 overs later, he had added 29 runs to that tally and, with the capable Dave Richardson, driven England to despair.

The tenth wicket was worth 73, one run more than in Durban, and, just as it had been there, was the highest stand of the innings. England were suddenly confronting a deficit of 91 and, with an awful predictability, the one setback they could not afford duly followed. Michael Atherton fell cheaply to Allan Donald for the second time in the

game, leaving less-equipped colleagues a monumental task even to take this match far into its fourth day.

Atherton believed before a ball was bowled that the game would not last four days and his fears are being borne out. The scores have been misleadingly low, for it is not impossible to bat on this pitch, as Adams and Richardson confirmed with such surprising eloquence, but its variable pace and bounce give the bowlers a heavy advantage. England exploited this yesterday, when the pace was slower, as well as South Africa had

It will be said in Malcolm's defence that he came into this game without match practice, but this can bring no real pardon. Fraser, exemplifying if used not enough yesterday, has played equally little and needs work more than Malcolm, who has always announced himself as a big-match bowler, the explosive type who does not require endless grooving. His bowling here, where England so needed him to be the hammer among chisels, would have struggled to explode a paper bag.

Malcolm was innocuous from the start, offering Daryll Cullinan fresh impetus with a friendly spell first thing, and, with Dominic Cork struggling to bowl through a groin strain, Atherton quickly had to look elsewhere. A clear blue and intensely hot day was into its second hour when Gary Kirsten's self-denial lapsed and he pulled arare, undeserving short ball from Mike Watkinson to mid-wicket.

By lunch, Cullinan had reached his fourth half-century of the series and Malcolm had staged an exhibition of bumbling, cartoon-quality fielding at fine leg. Before a second full house, trying gently, things were beginning to drift away from England, which makes their afternoon efforts all the more admirable.

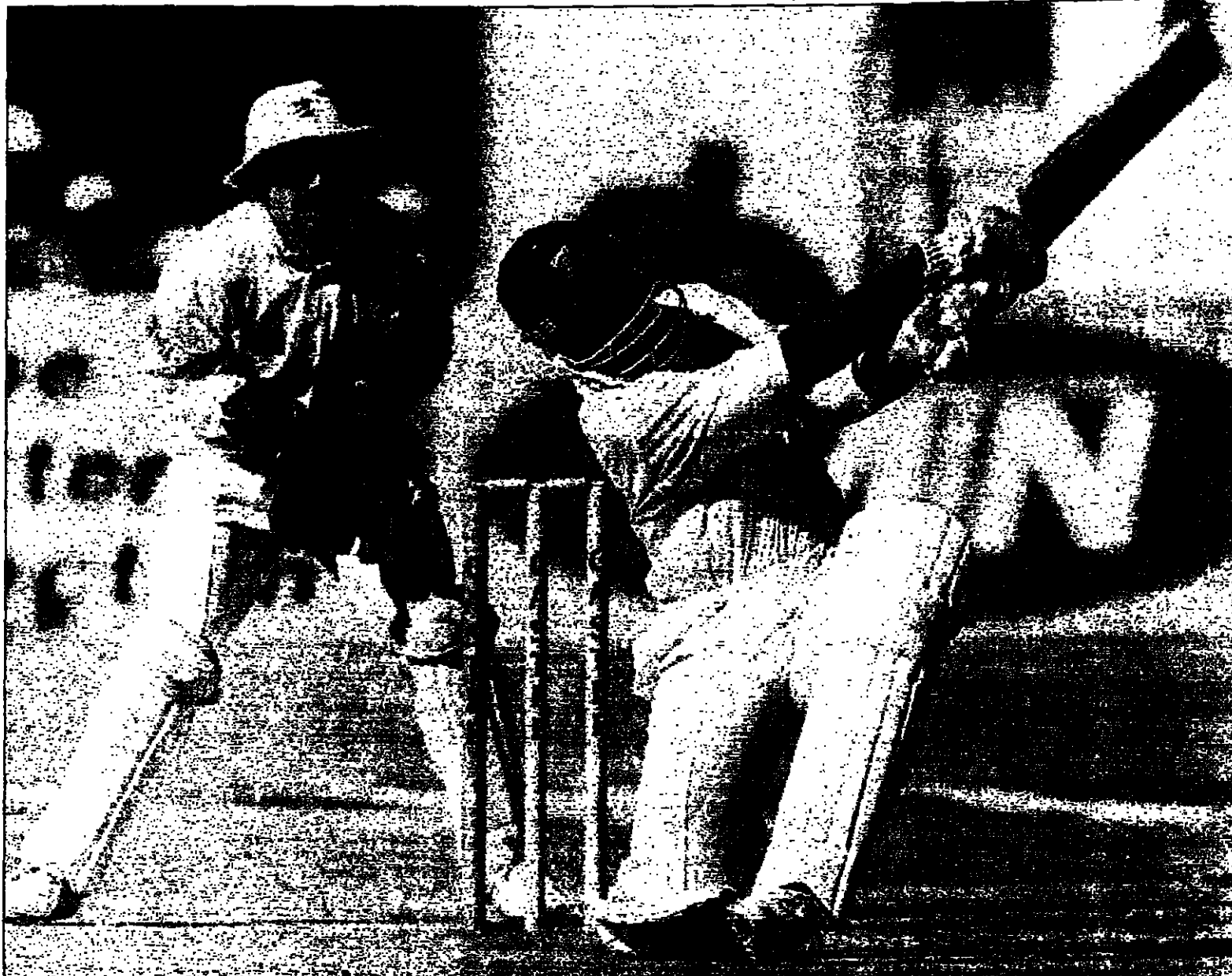
Fraser, who had extracted more life from the pitch than anyone, should have resumed immediately afterwards. Instead, Malcolm had another fruitless skirmish before Fraser and his heir apparent, Peter Martin, bowled beautifully to drag England onto equal terms. They took a wicket each, both caught behind by Russell, with the first of which he broke the record for England wicketkeeping dismissals in a series. It had stood at 24 and was held by his mentor, Alan Knott, who, in the protracted Ashes series of 1970-71, kept in 12 innings. Russell, remarkably, had needed only six.

South Africa now had two batsmen on nought, but Martin, after six overs for nine runs, needed a rest. Jacques Kallis sumptuously on-drove Cork for four, a stroke of pedigree, but it is impossible to subdue Cork and his answer was a direct hit on the bowler's stumps from cover to run out McMillan as he tried to steal a single.

It had been an afternoon of slovenly over-rates and sluggish scoring, yet it had been anything but dull. England had restricted South Africa to 38 runs from 25 overs and taken three prime wickets. When they added three more in the first hour of the evening, Ladbrokes made their joint favourites to win the game. By the close, the same bookmakers made South Africa 8-1 on.

Kallis fell leg-before to Martin and Pollock was astonishingly caught by Smith, abandoning evasive action at short-leg to change direction and plunge to his left. When Atherton took the new ball, Donald obliged him by giving Cork another wicket and Russell another catch, whereupon the fantasy began to take shape through a Malcolm full-toss, squirmed for his first run by Adams and turned into five by a wild throw from Cork.

As Malcolm strayed to leg, the lead climbed towards 50. Richardson was relieved by Hick, apparently failing to sight a sharp chance at gully. By the time he atoned with a spectacular catch at second slip, the damage was done. When Atherton was drawn into a short ball and offered a faint edge, the damage appeared irreparable.



Adams, looking anything but a novice with the bat and with Russell watching helplessly, sweeps Watkinson for four at Newlands yesterday

Malcolm delivers baffling display

WHEN Jeff Thomson was a young tearaway fast bowler, there were plenty of people in Australia willing to write him off as too wild to be a force in Test cricket. Greg Chappell, his captain at Queensland, was not one of them. "He may be wild," he said, "but he will terrify them out."

Chappell was right and he had also put his finger on what is essentially the fast bowler's job. He is there to dynamite out wickets, at least until age demands that he offsets diminishing speed with a degree of cunning.

It is Devon Malcolm's job too, which needs stating because there has sometimes been confusion on the matter. It is certainly the reason why England picked him for the present tour of South Africa, a team whose previous experience of him was in the white heat of the Oval in 1994, when he claimed his famous return of nine for 57.

This tour could have seen his second-finest hour and, in its early days, it appeared as though it might. He was feted as a black hero by a predomi-



SIMON WILDE
At Newlands

nantly black country and Nelson Mandela hailed him as the "Destroyer", but he has produced almost nothing but frustration for the England management.

The nearest anyone has come to talking about "fear" was in Soweto, when Raymond Illingworth told the press that "at the moment, Devon wouldn't frighten even you".

Where the blame lies for this is a moot point. Malcolm is guilty of sulking in his tent, his mood perhaps darkened by the absence of his family, who were upset at the criticisms levelled at him, but no one has fathomed what makes him tick. One former England captain reasoned that, if you wanted Malcolm to do one thing, you must ask him to do the opposite.

England won Test 153 (R A Smith 66, A A Donald 5 for 48). Second Innings: "M A Richardson b Donald 10 (19min, 15 balls, 1 four); A J Stanger not out 4 (29min, 22 balls, 1 four); A R C Fraser not out 0 (5min, 6 balls); Extras 68.2 (25.1).

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Spending spree on the cards as Indian reforms take effect

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA has entered 1996 poised for an unprecedented spending spree by its burgeoning credit card classes, many of whom are clutching new cellular telephones, driving previously unavailable foreign cars or drinking locally-made whisky.

A new India has risen from the ashes of socialism. An economic revolution has radically altered the lifestyles of about 2 per cent of the population — a lot of people in a country of almost one billion — and is touching the lives of almost everyone else.

Credit cards were unheard of until economic reforms began in 1991. Now newspapers carry advertisements from international banks offering cards to the rapidly-expanding middle classes. Car

loans, unknown until a few years ago, are readily available from Indian banks. The culture of debt has arrived, transforming a country whose people were always encouraged to be thrifty. That was easier when the shops were bare.

The rich-poor divide has never been more stark. The poor live in *jhuggis* (slum huts) on wasteland beside shops selling the latest Sony televisions, stereos and computers. Popular shopping centres in Delhi, such as Khan Market, have been transformed into smart air-conditioned stores with well-dressed staff who call customers sir or madam.

Never has India been more confident of its future. It believes it will eventually be-

come part of the boom that has transformed South-East Asia, as long as there is a sufficient period of political stability. It is buoyed by an analysis in the 1996 *Information Please* almanac, a respected reference book published in the United States, which says India has the world's sixth-largest economy, based on purchasing power.

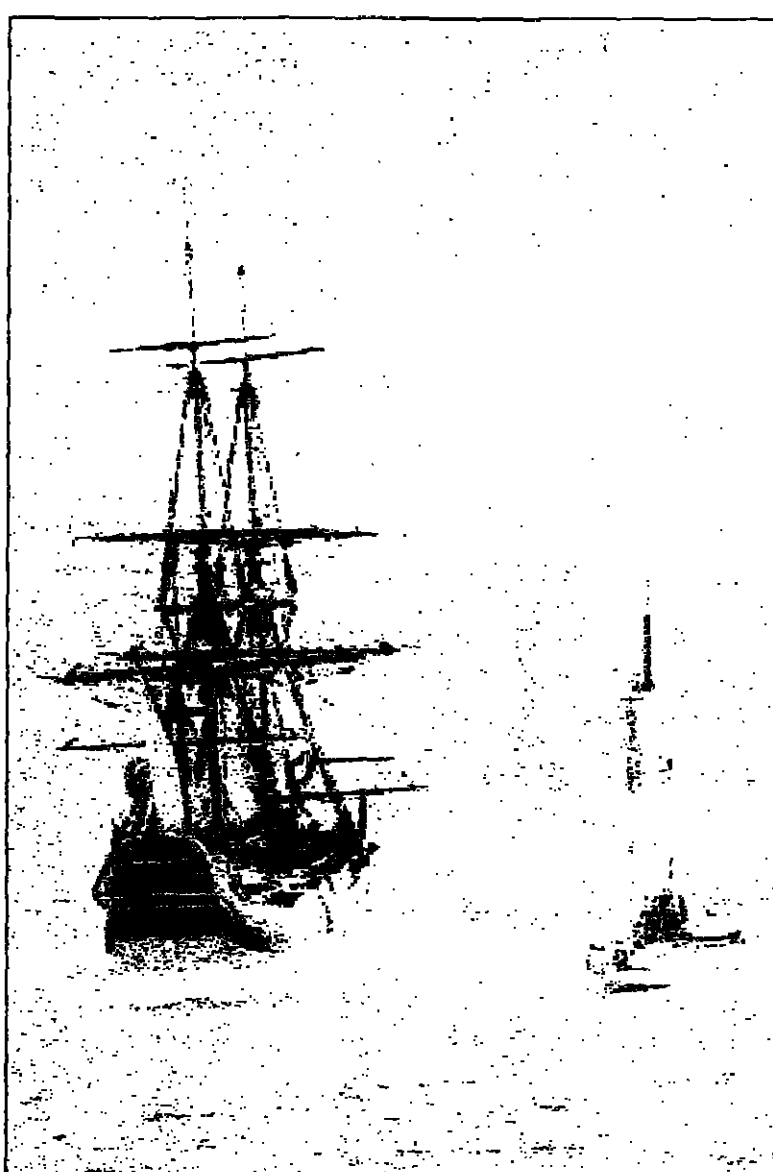
This is election year and the reform programme is on hold because the Government fears making a political mistake. The floodgates have been opened wide enough, however, for the economic metamorphosis to continue apace. Middle and high income groups are expanding most rapidly, with salaries in some industries approaching Western levels.

There are plenty of shops selling £2,000 watches and expensive electronic gadgetry. The 16 private domestic airlines (five years ago, Indian Airlines had a virtual monopoly) were fully booked over Christmas and New Year.

The new-found wealth does have some unfortunate side-effects, however. There have been a spate of murders by servants anxious to run off with their employers' family silver. Police in south Delhi have urged householders to register their servants so they can be traced if necessary.

In much of rural India, where more than 70 per cent of the population lives, there is conspicuously less poverty than five years ago. Four years of good harvests because of good monsoons have helped to create a vast new group with lower-to-middle incomes. This, in turn, has generated a consumer boom in low-cost items such as toothpaste, soap and detergent. Foreign firms are clamouring over each other to reach this market, which numbers tens of millions.

Bomb attack: A device exploded in Delhi yesterday, killing at least six people and seriously wounding about 20, police said. The Jammu and Kashmir Islamic Front, a little-known separatist group in Srinagar, claimed responsibility for the attack. (Reuters)



The Endeavour replica, which is sailing around New Zealand



The crew of the original Endeavour land in New Zealand in 1769

Cook tour sails into storm

Wellington: A replica of the Endeavour, the ship sailed by Captain James Cook, the British explorer, set off on a three-month tour of New Zealand yesterday, buffeted by a controversy that it was supposed to help to heal.

While the Endeavour Foundation emphasised the conciliatory nature of the tour, Maori activists said the ship symbolised British oppression of their people and should not be celebrated. Cook was the first European to land in New Zealand, and his arrival in the 130ft, three-masted, square-rigger in 1769 is considered to mark the beginning of New Zealand's colonisation.

Maori elders in Gisborne on the North Island urged the Endeavour not to visit. They said Cook and his men had inflicted "atrocities" on Maoris, who arrived by canoe from Polynesia many centuries earlier. On Tuesday, a dozen protesters tried to board the ship in Auckland. Three were arrested. (Reuters)



Cook: accused of "atrocities"

How monsoon power forged a revolution

BY NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

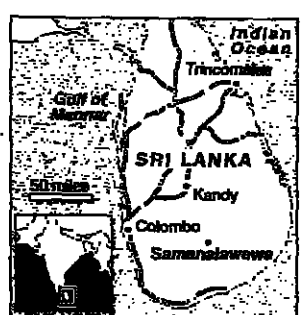
A BRITISH scientist may have solved the riddle of how South-East Asia led the world in steel production for more than 1,000 years, allowing the peoples of the region to make swords and other weapons of superior design.

A furnace that was powered by the monsoon winds has been discovered on hills in south central Sri Lanka.

Gill Juleff, of University College London, working with archaeologists in Sri Lanka, has reconstructed the furnace, proving that it was able to make high-carbon steel.

She says that the wind-assisted furnace technology discovered in Sri Lanka "sustained a major industry during the first millennium AD". The remains of the furnace were unearthed during archaeological excavations at Samanthalawewa.

Until now it had been believed that the South-East Asians must have relied on a bellows-operated furnace to



make high-quality steel. But the new discovery indicates that other, ingenious and possibly superior, designs were developed.

Tests show that as the monsoons, which blow between June and September at mean speeds of more than 20mph, pass over the furnace they create an area of low pressure causing oxygen and air to be pulled inside. Temperatures can average more than 1,450°C inside, ideal for high-quality steel.

Ms Juleff says in the journal *Nature* that there is evidence of a network of monsoon-powered furnaces on the hills around the excavation site.

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Arafat condemned as activist is seized

FROM ROSS DUNN IN RAMALLAH, WEST BANK

YASSIR ARAFAT, the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, yesterday displayed further contempt for democracy and free speech after he ordered the arrest of a Palestinian activist who had accused him of human rights violations.

The latest arrest comes a week after Mr Arafat jailed a Palestinian newspaper editor for five days after he failed to put a story on the front page praising the PLO chairman.

Both arrests have led to damning criticism of Mr Arafat, who is standing for the post of President in the first Palestinian elections due to be held on January 20. But the latest incident could have far

wider repercussions because it may have violated peace accords between the PLO and Israel which made the elections possible.

Human rights activists said that on Tuesday night Palestinian police entered Jerusalem from the West Bank and illegally arrested Bassam Eid, a resident of the city, and an Israeli citizen who works a human rights group.

Palestinian police were holding the Arab man in Ramallah on the West Bank, about half an hour's drive from Jerusalem.

Hanan Ashrawi, former human rights activist and a candidate in the elections, denounced the arrest.

Cambodia's top wife

Phnom Penh: King Sihanouk of Cambodia, 73, has granted Queen Norodom Monineath Sihanouk the title "Supreme Wife", a move that may indicate he wants her to succeed him as monarch.

The royal palace released a decree yesterday that grants the Queen, the former Monique Izzi, 58, the title "Preah Reach Akka-Mohesey". The new title raises her status and indicates in the language of Cambodian court circles that she is a queen capable of reigning on the King's death.

However, King Sihanouk is a constitutional monarch and several government officials said it would be unconstitutional for him to choose his successor. (AFP)

China factory fire blamed on owner

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

HONG KONG and Taiwanese factory owners who flout safety regulations in mainland China are being blamed after the deaths of 19 workers in a fire this week.

One thousand workers who were asleep in the factory, which makes Christmas tree ornaments, woke up in the early morning to find the building on fire. As they tried to escape through one fire door and a few windows, 19 died and 37 were injured in the crush.

Senior Colonel Chen Jianhui, of the Guangdong provincial fire brigade, blamed the Taiwanese owner of the factory, in the Shenzhen special economic zone, for ignoring

safety regulations by cramming too many workers into a small living space.

Li Zhi, the vice-secretary of the Shenzhen Local and Foreign Entrepreneurs' Association, accused Taiwan and Hong Kong businessmen of refusing to attend classes on factory safety. Wong Ying-yu, a Hong Kong trade union official, claimed that such owners improved safety only after a disaster. Hong Kong businessmen deny the allegations.

Chinese newspapers regularly report fires in schools, cinemas and factories. Smoking is common, inflammable rubbish is everywhere, and most doors are sealed.

Kim Jong Il 'to be confirmed as leader'

FROM JAMES PRINGLE
IN PEKING

THE mystery surrounding the succession in North Korea appeared to have been cleared up yesterday when its ambassador in Peking said the accession of his apparent Kim Jong Il, 53, son of the late "Great Leader" Kim Il Sung, was only a formality as he had been in charge of

state, party and army affairs for a long time. As a press conference called to publicise new year editorials in the North Korean media, Chu Chang Jun, the envoy, said people should pay attention to the situation on the second anniversary of Kim's death next July.

"Our people are still in a state of mourning for Great Leader Kim Il Sung," Mr Chu said. "That is why we have not

yet held elections for the leadership of the supreme party and state organisation. "Comrade Kim Jong Il has carried out the same work as leader of state, party and army for a long time," he added. "So the announcement of the supreme leadership of our state is only a formality and will be made in July after the second anniversary of the death of the Great Leader."

Britain presses Ramos to honour radar contract

BY ABBY TAN IN MANILA AND ROSS TIEMAN

MICHAEL PORTILLO, the Defence Secretary, yesterday urged Manila to honour a contract for a new British-made air-traffic control system needed to safeguard air travellers and protect the Philippines from external threats.

During a three-day visit to discuss military and technological collaboration, Mr Portillo said implementation of the contract awarded to GEC-Marconi and worth up to £240 million "is the outcome I would like to see". The planned radar system is based on a model newly installed in Britain.

The airways over the Philippines form a crossroads for rapidly increasing air traffic between Hong Kong, Australia and other expanding Asia-Pacific economies. With the number of overflying aircraft increasing by a quarter every year, industry sources say that in four years the skies over the Philippines will be busier than the air routes over the North Atlantic.

At present, the Philippines has only the crudest of radar systems, and overflying aircraft pay air traffic control fees. GEC-Marconi has designed a radar system that would automatically identify overflying planes and bill airlines for air traffic control fees of \$20 million (£13.3 million) a year which cannot be collected at present. It would also enable controllers to direct military aircraft away from civil planes, reducing the risk of accidents.

GEC-Marconi, the military arm of British electronics con-

glomerate GEC, was awarded a £90 million, first-phase contract in August after beating off Thomson-CSH of France and rivals from America and Japan. But the project, one of the "flagship" modernisation schemes of President Ramos, was reviewed after a senator, Sergio Osmena, claimed that the GEC bid was 50 per cent too high, and that a separate military radar should be bought.

After meeting the President yesterday, Mr Portillo said that Britain believed the contract made and signed in the middle of last year "to be valid and contractually binding". President Ramos announced the suspension of the contract on December 2 and appointed a committee to review it. GEC-Marconi was asked to put in another bid, and has already made a technical presentation to the review panel.

Adrian Thorpe, British Ambassador to the Philippines, and Sir Geoffrey Pattie, chairman of GEC-Marconi, wrote to President Ramos protesting that they had not been officially informed of the cancellation. Sir Geoffrey's letter, published in the local press, complained that the British firm was made a "sacrificial lamb" for the Ramos Government's falling popularity.

The order will help to safeguard nearly 2,000 jobs at the GEC radar plant in Chelmsford. But it is also viewed by the company as crucial in the battle to win contracts to modernise other air traffic control systems in the Asia-Pacific region.

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WHICH?
TELLS YOU WHAT'S WHAT

Danger signs □ Fibre providers □ Polar madness

What is paranoia?

IN 1764, 231 years before Nicholas Soames appeared on television and used the term *paranoid* to describe the personality of the Princess of Wales, Voltaire had defined madness as the state in which a sufferer "has erroneous perceptions and thereafter reasons correctly from them". Voltaire's definition would no longer be accepted as covering all forms of insanity but it was used recently in a textbook to explain the term *paranoid*.

Paranoia may be a symptom of many different psychiatric diseases, whether neuroses or psychoses, but it is not necessarily a feature of them all. Dinner party conversations, since Mr Soames's diagnosis was broadcast, have tended to use the description *paranoid personality* in different ways. Some guests have wrongly thought that it meant "just plain nutty". Others have tended to be more precise and have followed, as Mr Soames may have unwittingly done, the definition of the *International Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder*.

The essential feature of a *paranoid personality disorder* is said by the manual to be "a pervasive and unwarranted tendency to interpret the actions of people as being deliberately demeaning or threatening". It lists seven examples which typify this behaviour, and says that a patient must show at least four of them before personality disorder can be diagnosed.

The manual specifically differentiates between those cases in which the *paranoid behaviour* is a symptom of a more general disease, and those where a *paranoid personality disorder* is a complete diagnosis. The condition is, in fact, one of those covered by



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

the all-embracing diagnosis of a personality disorder.

People with a *paranoid personality* are prone to be excessively sensitive to any insult, real or imagined, to any rebuff however unintended. As a result, friendships, although they may readily be made, are often sustained with difficulty. In normal social life the action of others is frequently misunderstood and gestures which were supposed to be friendly are often misinterpreted as showing hostility and a desire to humiliate or, using the terms of the manual's definition, "demeaning or threatening".

Although sufferers from *paranoid personality* are often self-absorbed and very sensitive to any rebuff from another they are not always equally sensitive to the need to preserve the feelings of those around them. They can sometimes seem unreasonably aggressive. Minor degrees of *paranoid behaviour* exhibited by those affected mimic in a small way the more severe delusional behaviour found in some forms of psychotic disease, in which delusions of grandeur and excessive self-importance can coexist with a fragile sense of self-esteem.

The manual's seven criteria sought when diagnosing a *paranoid personality* cover such diverse points as an unusual expectation of being exploited; questioning without foundation the loyalty of others; reading threatening or demeaning intentions into benign remarks or actions; bearing unreasonable grudges and being unforgiving of minor insults (possibly unintended); having a reluctance to confide in others for the fear that information will be used against them; being easily slighted and quick to anger; and having a tendency to question without justification the fidelity of a sexual partner.

The penalty of all that pudding

THE guts of 15 per cent of the population who suffer from irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) may well now be returning to normal after a testing time over Christmas and the new year. The abdominal pain, wind, bloating and either diarrhoea or constipation, in some cases both, may be over for another year.

Dr David Silk, a gastroenterologist who specialises in the treatment of IBS, says that Christmas fare can be particularly trying. Rich food such as Christmas pudding with brandy butter, accompanied by alcohol and coffee, have, Dr Silk says, played havoc with normally carefully controlled diets.

The usual teaching is that the foods which patients with IBS should avoid may include chocolate, coffee, alcohol, cheese and other dairy products. Dr Silk says that evidence on diet is always difficult to evaluate and people often have to find out for themselves what is upsetting their digestion.

Dr Silk's research has shown that three items are particularly liable to cause trouble: onions, alcohol and coffee. Both alcohol and coffee tend to draw fluids into the guts, thereby doing nothing to diminish the need for the patient to make the sudden dash to the lavatory which is a characteristic sign of the disease.

The many different forms of fibre and the effect of a high bran diet, although useful in some cases of constipation, can make other symptoms worse. Dr Silk recommends that the fibre found, for instance, in Fybogel, can help more patients than simple bran.

The long, dark night of the soul

THE HARD weather that swept across northern and eastern Britain last week prompted the usual comparisons with Arctic conditions. As pumps cleared the water that had sprung from a burst pipe and flowed through my house to flood the cellar, it was salutary to read a report from Antarctica by Sara Wheeler, the travel writer, to see what the term "Arctic conditions" really meant.

In the Antarctic winter there are seven months of total darkness, with wind speeds of 70 knots and temperatures of -115F. Boiling water froze in the air as it was poured from Ms Wheeler's kettle.

Not unnaturally, many of the visiting Europeans to Antarctica developed psychiatric problems: the phrase "polar madness" was coined by Scott and Shackleton. Since then, psychiatrists have described spontaneous trance states, in which varying levels of consciousness are reduced by isolation and lack of daylight. More usual psychiatric symptoms abound: 72 per cent of the expatriates became depressed, 65 per cent abnormally aggressive and nearly a half have problems with concentration and notice a loss of memory. It is little wonder that Admiral Byrd, who led the first American expedition to Antarctica, learnt to include two coffins and 12 straitjackets in his stores. The Russians, who also had camps in Antarctica, fared no better: they had to ban chess after the loser of one game achieved revenge by driving his ice-pick, with lethal results, into the skull of the victor.



Before and after: Cherie Martin's obsession with food and diets meant she put on weight, left. Then she learnt to eat only when hungry, right

Learning to be hungry

From the age of 12, Cherie Martin dieted, binged, dieted — and put on five stone. Then she realised the secret of staying slim is to give up dieting altogether

My teenage years were clouded by one, burning ambition. I wanted to be thin. I felt fat and I believed that when I was thin I would be happy. When I was thin my whole life would change. I would find the perfect outfit, the perfect man, the perfect relationship. Every single problem would be solved. When I was thin.

Aged 12, I joined Weight Watchers. After I had reached my goal weight twice, giving up the diet midway through my third attempt, I decided that I had better try another diet. So I did. And then I tried another, and another: the Scarsdale, the Beverly Hills, the Cambridge, the grape cure, the chocolate lover's.

Each time I lost weight initially, then put back what I had lost plus a few pounds. As I played the diet-get-thin-then-get-fat game I became more and more obsessed with it. I no longer cared about romance or schoolwork. All I cared about was how much I ate and how much I weighed.

My first thought each morning was how fat I was. My last thought at night was how much or how little I had eaten that day. I lost and regained hundreds of pounds: the same pounds, over and over again, in an endless, vicious circle. When I joined Weight Watchers I was 11lb overweight. After six years of dieting I was five stone overweight and had forgotten how to eat like a normal person.

Dieting changes us. We begin to live differently. Perhaps without even noticing, we begin to think a great deal about food. We have long conversations about what we are allowed for breakfast, what we are not allowed for lunch. We discuss how to make our allocation of food last longer, and about how we are going to feast when the diet is over. Then we begin to notice people eating in the streets, how wonderful a bakery store smells. Eventually we end up obsessed with the very thing we are trying to give up: food.

Now you may think it is good to be obsessed because then you remember to watch what you eat. Unfortunately, it has the opposite effect. When thoughts about food constantly fill our minds, we reach for food when we are not hungry.

In our brains is a box, and inside is written: *Eat something, have some food.*

Now this box is filled to overflowing with these words so any stimulus causes the words in the box to spill out into our brains. For example, we may feel sad, but before the sadness is allowed to surface, the box opens and our obsession interferes and we want to eat. We get lonely, and instead of reaching out to another person, food becomes our unsatisfactory friend. Any feeling, whether happy or sad, first passes through the box sitting in our brain, and often gets short-circuited by it.

We diet, we become obsessed with food, and then we are stuck, we are short-circuited. Wherever we go, whatever we do, we hear the message: *Eat something, have some food.*

Ten years ago I gave up dieting. I was terrified to take the step because I knew no other way of living, but I had just bought a book by Bob Schwartz called *Diets Don't Work*. I discovered that only two out of 100 dieters maintain their weight loss in the long term.

The book explained that we should model our eating patterns on those of normal people who had never had a weight problem in their lives. Like them we should learn to eat when we are hungry, eat exactly what we feel like eating, and then stop when we are satisfied.

My first task was to learn

what natural hunger was. I had confused emotional hunger with body hunger. I wanted to eat when I was tired, bored, lonely, angry, anxious or confused.

During the first months, I gained 10lb. That was because when I was hungry, I wanted all the foods that I had never

eating what I wanted, and I was losing weight.

Over the next year I lost 40lb. I was so excited: the magic wand I had been looking for had arrived. But then my enthusiasm for eating only when I was hungry began to fade, and my weight began to creep up again. I was disappointed. But then the most interesting part of my journey began.

I realised I had many important lessons to learn. The first was that even though I needed to learn to eat like a slim person, there was a difference between them and me. Slim people eat when they are hungry, but they do not, and do not want to, eat when they are not hungry, I did.

It was often a struggle for me to give up eating when I was not hungry. Reaching for food for comfort was an ingrained habit. While I was learning how not to eat when I was not hungry, my weight did fluctuate — up as well as down. However, the long-term trend was always downwards.

During that time my son Alan was born prematurely weighing 2lb. The after-effects of his traumatic first year have left him with cerebral palsy, and he will always be in a wheelchair.

When Alan was two, his father, my first husband Stephen, died suddenly. I coped with what happened but I expressed my grief with wild fluctuations in my weight. I needed to. There were times

when food seemed to be the only thing in the world which could provide comfort. As it did, at other times, when in my grief I was not eating, and losing weight brought a semblance of control into a world which had become chaotic.

My biggest task was to learn not to suppress my feelings by eating. To learn to be strong enough to cry when sad, to express anger, and to eat only when hungry.

I realise that if I had allowed my obsession with food to continue, I would have lost the essence of who I am. I am a woman. I am not my weight or how I look.

I have sad times, I have happy times, and I make mistakes, but they are never governed by how much I weigh or how pretty I look. These times are governed by how I feel inside. I don't mind what I weigh.

Three years ago I needed legal help to set up my company Weigh Ahead, and negotiate a contract for my book. A friend of mine said she knew a lawyer called Philip. We got married two years ago.

I used to feel sad about all the years I lost while I was dieting, but now I realise that the lessons I learnt in my journey to overcome my overeating have been invaluable. Food was never the problem. My overeating was a symptom of the chaos within myself. Controlling that chaos made me who I am today: I love my son; my work is exhilarating and I am expecting another baby in early June. It was hard, but it was worth it. I know myself now and I like what I have become.

● Dr Cherie Martin's book, *Naturally Slim Without Dieting*, is published today by Doubleday, £6.99.



"I know myself": Cherie and family

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The woman who refuses to stay stuck in the Sixties

THE FRINGE has remained defiantly in place, sitting just below the eyebrows, brushing the eyelids. The lipstick is a chalky Bardot-esque pink, an unflattering shade on a woman of 61. Somehow, on Mary Quant, it seems, if not quite right, then appropriate.

"Hello, I'm Mary," she whispers, dark witchy eyes blinking the way a gauche adolescent might in the company of adults. "Would you like to, erm, maybe, erm, come and have a look round my shop?"

Sentences are punctuated by old-fashioned exclamations: "golly... crickey... gosh..." The adolescent aura strikes one as odd, coming from this legend, this little woman, one of the people who practically invented the Sixties.

Think mini-skirts, white PVC raincoats, skinny-rib polo-neck sweaters: muted colours of grape, smoky browns, greys. Go on to yellow-based make-up, smudgy eyes and china-doll haircuts. The Look created by Quant: sulky French convent schoolgirl, all uncompromising puritanical lines, cut with a dash of Lolita erotica.

The Look is currently dancing again across the pages of *Vogue*, enjoying a renaissance on the backs of King's Road babes. As in the Sixties, the Nineties version is totally ruthless, ignoring the over-35s or, indeed, anyone careless enough to need a size 16.

As Quant says: "You can't wear fashionable clothes if you are that size. Yes, I know 47 per cent of women are over size 16, but so what? Tough. Skip lunch. Live on oranges for a day."

Do as Frenchwomen do. She, of course, has barely gained a pound. In her cream-coloured Equipment shirt, slim black Japanese trousers, black ankle boots and a man's watch, the overall Look is much the same as it was then.

Then was when she dressed the generation who gyrated to "Yeah, Yeah, Yeah", who shocked the grown-ups, who fled the irrelevant femininity of their mother's set. Quant was in the eye of the hurricane, one of the icons whose face personified all the mad excitement of a decade, as globally familiar as the four mop-tops, E-type Jags and the King's Road. And yet she doesn't come across as someone who once dominated a generation.

Modest, straightforward, she potters about the white-walled shop hiding behind her fringe, chattering about sweater shapes and pointing out the 80 lipstick colours with all the keenness of a design college graduate on her first job.

Tucked behind the Fulham Road in west London, the shop is on the ground floor of the building housing the headquarters of Mary Quant Ltd.

Along with fashion, and the cosmesis design business which was launched in 1966, the Quant empire makes

The Look created by Mary Quant is back. Noreen Taylor talks to its prolific and enduring designer, and discovers a woman who is determined to keep moving forward



Mary Quant now, doing skinny sweaters again

around £160 million a year in royalties. There are 200 shops in Japan and plans for more openings in the Far East, as well as lucrative licensing agreements ranging from Max Factor to Allied Breweries.

The company's growth and development were a result not only of Quant's design genius, but also of the marketing and business talents of her husband, the witty, urbane, upper-class Alexander Plunket Greene, and their friend Archie McNair, the business's financial eminence grise for more than 25 years. Now, apart from her son Orlando, aged 24, Quant is alone. Archie retired and tragically, her great love and mentor, Alexander, died six years ago.

From behind her office desk, piled high with sketch pads and pencils, her head droops in sadness when I mention Alexander's name for the first time. "At first I thought I was dead too," she says softly. "And then I became used to the idea that life is a privilege, a wonder, jolly nice in fact. Having projects helped me, goals to strive towards that made me see life was worth living, that it was worth going on in spite of wanting." Her

voice trails away for a moment. "Well, I'm sure you can imagine how it is, that kind of loss."

"I would look at the sun coming up in the morning over a field near my house and think... yes, I have another new day, and I'm going to get through this one. And then I'll face another day, and so on like that, until I finally convinced myself that Alexander would have wanted me to appreciate everything and not waste a moment. Thankfully, I have my lovely house in the country. If I'd had to move from that, I couldn't have taken it. That would have wrecked me."

The Surrey house, set amid acres of rolling fields and surprisingly rural in spite of being so close to London, was built by a great-aunt of Alexander's in 1928 as a rather grand country retreat, mostly for picnics and weekends.

Alexander used to say that Mary was the first to design for the masses, for the working girl. Yet since meeting Alexander at art college during her teens, the schoolteacher's daughter, born and brought up in Wales, has known only an upper-class Bohemianism. Long-haired Alexander used to dress in his mother's silk pyjamas when she first met him.

"Yes, I suppose crossing classes seemed less of a thing then because of postwar change, when we were inventing the rules to suit ourselves. For instance, I don't suppose Alexander would have gone to art school had it been some other period. It wasn't smart then to come from a grand family, and people re-

arranged their accents accordingly. But I think the British upper classes have always been adept at taking what they like from other social strata. John Fowler and Noël Coward might be good examples."

"After the war there was nothing for young people. No music, clothes, places to meet, a wasteland. So there were no obstacles in the way of people like us, Terence Conran, David Bailey, Donovan. We simply shot through. I designed for women who had become economically independent and bought their own clothes."

"Before me, mothers had gone with daughters to choose and pay for clothes. So girls looked like their mothers: fussy, over-dressed and made up in hard, heavy colours and textures. There were three shades of eye-shadow: green, bright blue, and lilac. Lipstick was either a bluish red, dark red, or coral. All of it ghastly."

"When I started making clothes, I only had theatrical and art school chums as customers. I was designing for myself and my friends. In 1955 Alexander inherited £5,000 on his 21st birthday and with Archie's help, he got a mortgage on a house at the corner of Markham Square and the King's Road. We called it



In 1964 with her husband and business mentor, Alexander Plunket Greene, who died six years ago

Bazaar and from the first Saturday it was filled with painters, actors, journalists, poets, like one of our parties. That's just how it ran, like a never-ending party, bottles of wine everywhere, music, people prancing around. So when the big boys, the manufacturers from America came to Bazaar, I felt quite... oh no, this isn't for you, it's for my pals."

"We never been ambitious in that sense. For me it's always been an adventure as in 'Let's do this and see how it works', or 'What if we tried...?' I wanted skinny clothes to follow the shape of young bodies. I simply did what excited me. I wasn't trying to please or impress the rest of the world."

But of course that's exactly what she did. And then came the Seventies and the Eighties, different worlds reacting against what had gone before.

Quant simply was not a kaftan sort of person, nor was she a glitzy, shoulder-padded woman either. So in the Seventies and Eighties she concentrated on her new interests: hearth, home, garden and kitchen.

"I'd become quite broody by then. I'd had Orlando. My interests had changed. Unlike the Sixties, where a house was a place where you dumped clothes, or where you went when there was nothing better to do, the home now became a new focus and I found myself being asked to design, oh, everything from duvet covers to washing machines."

"So that was jolly nice, and kept me very busy. The three of us seemed to be constantly airborne between New York, London and Japan. I couldn't bear to be separated from Orlando, you see, so he travelled with us until he was seven when the school got

rather cross. We tended to spend more time in our house in France and I cooked, gardened, still kept up the work momentum, except I was less involved with clothes."

Now it's back to clothes again. Back to the delicate skinny sweaters, to tiny, doll-like skirts and furry-belted coats.

Well, not quite. If I pulled out some of those old Sixties clothes, you'd soon see a difference. Materials like Lycra have so improved the look of clothes. And things are never put together in quite the same way. Anyway I'd be bored doing the same old thing all over again. Fashion is about change, rather like life."

Orlando, her only child, is now so obviously the joy of her life. When she talks of him she becomes quite giggly, bubbling over with enthusiasm, describing his love of style, and how he dresses like his father, a tribute to the traditional English tailor, but always with some idiosyncratic touch.

"He's selling space on a marketing magazine. And he's so good at it. I'm not sure what he'll want to do eventually. Be lovely if he did want to join me here, although I feel he should have a look round other worlds first before making that decision."

Orlando's future is yet to unfold. Yet his mother has closed no gates. "My passion is to move forward, constantly discovering, renewing, discarding the old. I'm not a particularly reflective person. I mean I don't wallow in nostalgia thinking, 'Oh wasn't it wonderful back then'. For me the wonder is still ahead, still in the future. I know that's how Alexander would have wanted me to think too. I embrace life for him."

Hilary Kingsley meets the star of *Murder One*

How the OJ trial inspired a TV cult

WHEN THE jurors in the O.J. Simpson trial were sequestered, unable to go home at night and do what other people do — watch television — a member of Judge Ito's staff struck out against this cruel sentence.

She contacted America's foremost television producer, Steven Bochco of *LA Law* and *Hill Street Blues* fame, and begged a box of videotapes of his award-winning police drama *NYPD Blue*.

The favour was called in a few months later by Barbara Bosson, Bochco's actress wife, who asked to be allowed to sit in court during the murder trial. Like millions of others around the world, Bosson was fascinated by the unfolding drama. She also studied the tics and tricks of lawyers and watched, in particular, the body language of the chief prosecution attorney, Marcia Clark.

The result is another television drama for her husband. *Murder One* has become cult viewing among America's middle classes and has been praised by critics. The first of its 23 hour-long instalments begins on Sky Movies this Sunday at 9pm, with another run on BBC2 in March.

Murder One is not a copy of the O.J. case. There is no "race card", and the trial — of a man charged with the sex murder of a 15-year-old girl — is from the viewpoint of the defence attorney, Ted Hoffman, played by Daniel Benzali.

THE SERIES is guilty, though, of cashing in on the extraordinary public appetite for the O.J. case exposed for a diet of Machiavellian manoeuvring by lawyers, and private and professional mini-dramas outside the court. And, as the series is still being shot, the outcome is still a secret.

Bosson, who starred in *Hill Street Blues* as the police chief's wife, says her husband decided in the mid-1980s that he wanted to make a series with one case per season as opposed to per episode.

"But none of the networks took him seriously. Then the O.J. case showed everybody that there is a fascination in the complexities of the law," she says.

In the series, Bosson plays Hoffman's main adversary, the prosecution attorney Miriam Grasso.

"Grasso doesn't look dangerous, but she is," Bosson says. "She's ethical in everything she does, but she's the Queen of the Misdirect. She makes Hoffman's team look in one place while she's doing something else."

"On the surface Grasso's not like Marcia. I wasn't going to wear that short-skirt uniform that I saw all the women on the O.J. case wear. I was annoyed by all the attention paid to Marcia's hairstyles and clothes, and the fact that she was a woman alone."

"But what I took from Marcia was her style of always seeming to be completely assured. I'm not the least like that. Carrying her tangled problems in my head and learning these long speeches full of legal jargon is killing me."

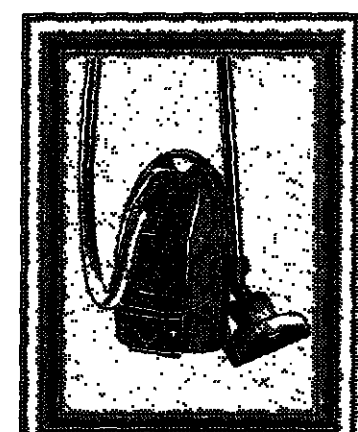
Married to workaholic Bochco for 26 years, Bosson is hoping to return in the late spring to her main job of writing film screenplays. But she knows that, given the huge success of *Murder One*, and her closer-than-usual relationship with the producer, this seems unlikely.

"The signs are that we'll go for a second season and Steven has said that if we do I'll be in it."

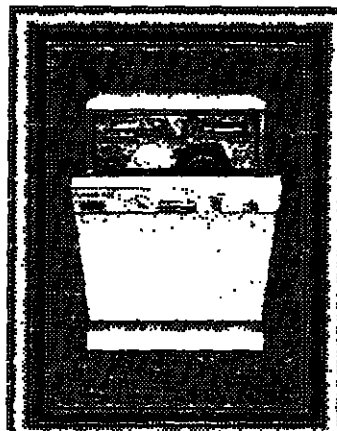
THE MIELE SALE



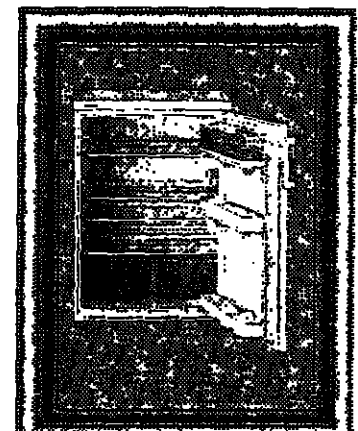
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The common ground is high ground

George Gardiner says Tories are about principle, not compromise

This Conservative Government is in grave danger of being saddled with a colossal myth. Like most political myths it has little basis in fact, yet it is repeated often enough — as it is again in the common following Emma Nicholson's defection — it could become fixed in the folklore of public opinion, with damaging effects for the whole party.

The myth is that the Tories are deserting the middle ground. The cry was first raised by Tony Blair last summer, with an obvious motive. It was offered by Alan Howarth as justification for his desertion. Now it is repeated by Emma, who adds for good measure that the Tory party is no longer the One Nation Conservative Party of Harold Macmillan.

This is echoed by that small stage army of old Tory wets, not to mention sundry commentators. As surely as night follows day, an unidentified "senior MP on the left of the party" is quoted warning that other defections will follow unless John Major moves to "reoccupy" the middle ground.

The Tory Left's attempt to appropriate the "One Nation" ideal as exclusively their own is the most colossal political cheek. The name comes from an influential book published in 1950 by a distinguished group of younger Tory MPs, including Lord Macleod and Edward Heath — but also right-wingers such as Angus Maude and Enoch Powell.

It offered a cogent analysis of the policies that Tories should pursue to bind the nation together, and any idea that it provides the inspiration for the present programme of the Tory Left is ludicrous. The "One Nation" ideal is one shared by most of us.

The charge that the Government is lurching to the right is ludicrous too. I am generally credited with being on the Right of the party — some would call me an unreconstructed Thatcherite — and I do not recognise anything like this happening. Indeed, I would go further: I am convinced that the charge is based on a fundamental misunderstanding of the political process and of what the "middle ground" means.

Amid all the spluttering about our supposed desertion of this hallowed territory, we would do well to remember a very wise distinction which the late Sir Keith Joseph drew in a landmark speech to the Oxford Union almost exactly 30 years ago. His distinction was between the middle ground in politics and the common ground.

The "middle ground", he argued, "is a compromise between the politicians, unrelated to the aspirations of the people. The common ground is with the people and their aspirations."

Sir Keith was speaking in the days when the middle ground was socialist. Few then disputed that the whole areas of industry and the utilities should be state-owned and

state-controlled, that trade union leaders had a rightful place in determining how the country was governed, that the State should control prices and incomes and a good deal more. This was the status quo, and it was a brave Tory who dared to challenge it.

Edward Heath attempted to break free in 1970, but before long he too fell under the socialist spell. It took three Parliaments under Margaret Thatcher to break the racket that had caused such damage to Britain since 1945.

The result is that the middle ground today is the product of nearly 17 years of Tory Government and Tory reforms. Few now dispute that privatised industries and utilities are more efficient and deliver better services to the consumer, that prices and incomes are best determined in a free market, that union leaders have no right to determine national policies, and much more.

This is now the status quo — the Tory status quo — and Blair has accepted a large part of it. For, as Keith Joseph said, the middle ground is "the lowest common denominator obtained from a calculus of assumed electoral expediency. It has no link with achieving the aspirations of the people."

The Tory wets want taxation to be kept at a level necessary to sustain the full panoply of the welfare state, to pursue a liberal policy in the hope of reforming criminals, to open the door to immigrants as wide as possible, and — most important of all — to move even closer to full European Union.

They argue that John Major should respond to defections by making concessions in this direction. But this would be the most foolish of responses, for the simple reason that this is not what the people want.

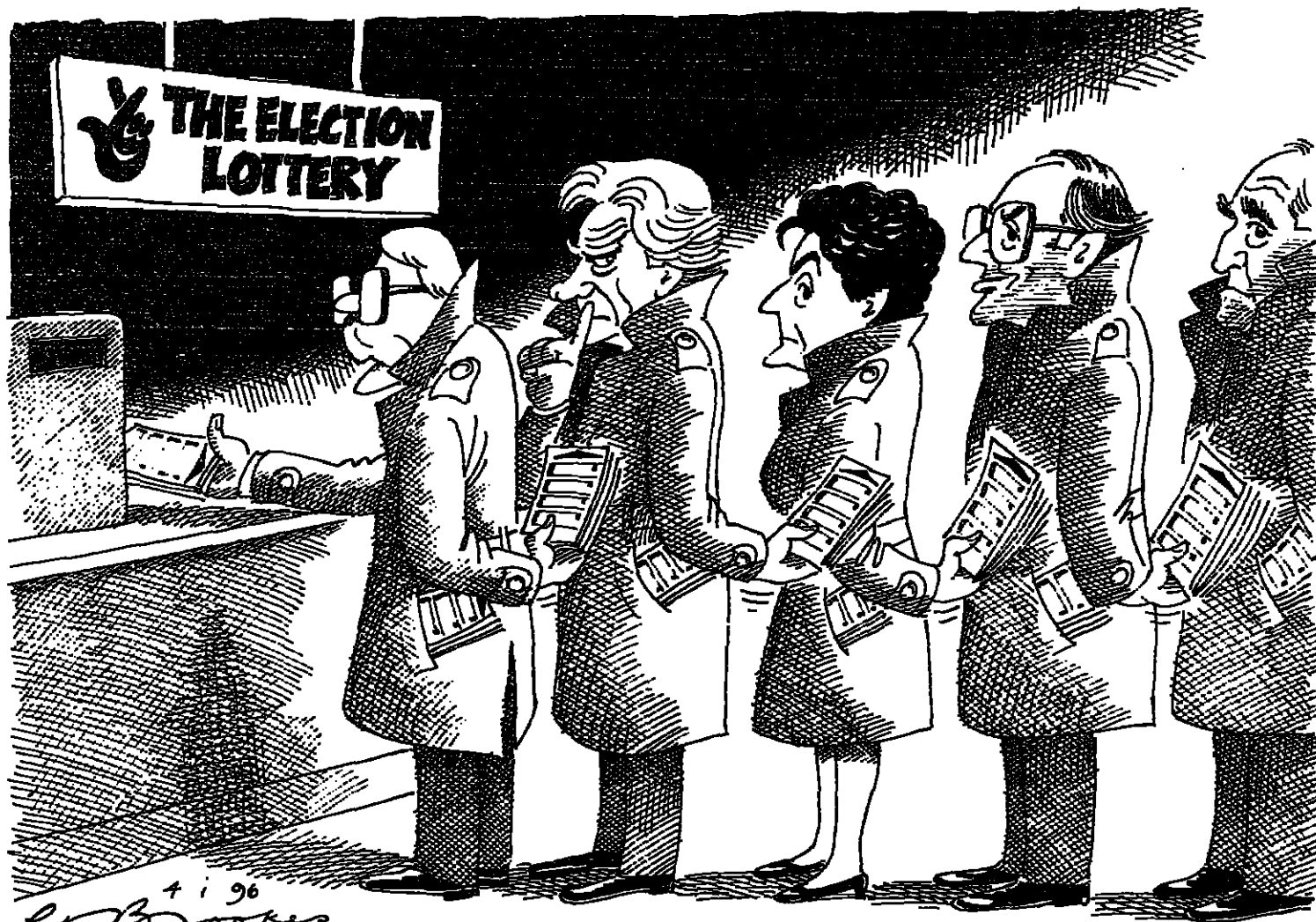
The ground we should seek to occupy is the right common ground, which is very different. Certainly it means improving our schools and sustaining the health service, but it also means cutting back spending elsewhere, significantly reducing taxes, a hard-line policy on law-breakers, slamming the door on bogus asylum-seekers and — above all — refusing to be sucked into a federal Europe.

Emma comes closer to the truth in alleging "prevarication" over Europe. What she means is that she wants us to sign up to a single currency, the natural foundation for a federal Europe.

We do indeed need a clearer lead here — but never in her direction. If John Major reacts to her defection at all, it must be to say what the majority of the British people yearn to hear him say: that he cannot conceive of a Tory Government surrendering our political sovereignty in this way.

When the clear blue water does divide us, the commonly held ground will be found on our side of the channel.

Sir George is Conservative MP for Reigate.



SYNDICATE IS "WASTING ITS TIME"

But why turn Liberal?

How odd of Emma Nicholson to espouse a party in the wilderness, with little influence or hope of power

I do not take a moral line about Emma Nicholson's defection or about the Tory reaction to it. She has left the Conservative Party, which she has every right to do: she has abused her old party and its leader, and that is free speech for her. In reply, the Tories have attacked her in a robust way, both for her policies, which they can know, and for her motives, which none of us can be sure of. As I do not always understand my own motives, I certainly do not pretend to understand those of anyone else. I expect her motives were mixed, as people's motives usually are.

If I wished to give offence, and nothing could be further from my mind, I would quote Sherlock Holmes's view of feminine psychology in the case of Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope, "the most lovely woman in London": her husband, it will be remembered, was the Secretary of State for European Affairs in Lord Bellingham's second administration. Holmes said of her: "How can you build on such a quicksand? Their most trivial actions may mean volumes, or their most extraordinary conduct may depend upon a hairpin or a curling-iron."

In fact, however, I do not think Miss Nicholson is as much of a curling-iron person as one or two male members of the present Cabinet. The insult I relished most was when she said that Michael Heseltine was "not a gentleman". So far as politics is concerned, who had ever said he was?

I was more puzzled by her choice of a new party. Why the Liberal Democrats? We have all heard a good deal from Miss Nicholson in the past few days. We know what she dislikes about the Tory party, which is pretty well everything: she seemed to me to hit some targets but to miss others by a mile. I am hardly one to talk, since I have been, and am, one of the Prime Minister's critics. But is she not unfair to John Major? What I have not learnt is why she is so attracted to the Liberal Democrats. In particular why does she think that the Liberals are a better party to join than new Labour, which was Alan Howarth's choice when he left the Tories?

I suppose Alan Howarth's fate is

likely to have dampened her enthusiasm for Labour. He had his few days of fame, but has not been much heard of since. He was, briefly, a news-story, but is now a non-story. No political correspondent telephones his news editor to announce in breathless tones: "I've just had an interview with Alan Howarth." Yet this can hardly be blamed on new Labour. Paddy Ashdown has milked the Nicholson story over the new year in exactly the way that Tony Blair milked the Howarth story at the time of the Tory party conference. Both will be yesterday's defections before January is out. Next month, if I refer to Miss Nicholson at all, the copytaker will again be asking: "Is it with an 'h' or without?" And I shall not be able to remember.

The Liberal Democrats retain in their name the memory of the Social Democrats and the old Alliance. They had an opportunity in the 1980s, and they blew it. They also then had a number of leaders of exceptional ability: David Owen, Roy Jenkins, Shirley Williams. I knew Shirley Williams at Oxford in the early 1950s, and so I was well able to understand her reasons for leaving the anti-European, left-wing Labour Party of the Michael Foot period. She had a liberal commitment to social democracy, rather than to socialism or liberalism. Tony Blair is the legitimate heir to the modern social democratic tradition in Britain. Any realistic Social Democrat would now vote for new Labour rather than for the Liberals. Tony Blair is doing what David Owen and Shirley Williams were only able to fight for.

Even in the West Country, the Liberals have now fallen far behind Labour. In yesterday's *Financial Times*, George Parker reported the November Gallup 9000 figures for Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Dorset. I give them with the actual percentages of the votes at the last general election, in 1992, in brackets. Labour has an overwhelming current lead with 51% (49.2%). The Liberal Democrats are a poor second with 23.7% (31.4%). The Conservatives are third with 22.2% (47.6%). These are terrible

William Rees-Mogg

figures for the Conservatives, but they are bad for the Liberals too. The Liberals hope to pick up as many as 15 seats in the South West, mainly from Labour tactical voting. But there is no reason for Labour voters to vote tactically for the Liberals, when they have twice as much support. They can take the seats for themselves.

In the past, the Liberals have had some residual air of being the party of free trade, and people who are opposed both to socialism and to the Tories felt that Liberalism was the genuine third way. This fear of socialism has not been entirely removed by new Labour, but it has almost been removed. To many people, the Liberals now look more like a party of the Left — a high tax, interventionist party — than like any sort of a free-trade party of the Centre. An anti-Tory, Adam Smith, Gladstonian Liberal of the old school would be much more likely to vote for the new Labour Party.

There is a real difference over Europe. The Liberal Democrats, almost all of them, have become Euro-fanatics in a sense that Labour members have not. Of course all three parties are divided on the subject. Yet this pushes the Liberals even further away from the electorate, particularly from the relatively old-fashioned voters of the South West. One only has to consider the Cornish fishing industry to see that extreme Euro-federalism — which seems to have attracted Miss Nicholson towards the Liberal Democrats — is quite remote from what the voters of that region actually want.

The Liberal Democrats now face two very difficult elections, in the first of which the Labour Party will very probably win a large majority for moderate, and indeed liberal, modernism. In the general election after that, the Tories will be fighting back, as they did in 1950, and the Liberals are likely to be squeezed as they were then. For the next ten years the Liberals are unlikely to be anywhere near power, unless they have the luck of a hung Parliament in the election after next. That is just as well, as they are now contributing rather little to the national debate on most of the more difficult issues of politics. It is far from being their finest hour.

Alan Coren



Here's a real fairy-tale: the Princess and the plum

What a good boy am I! I sit here in this great newspaper's corner, but do I selfishly polish off this excellent Christmas pie I have just discovered under the pile of empties surrounding my desk? I do not. Having put in my thumb and pulled out the most enormous plum, I immediately trifurcate it and offer it to three pitiful unfortunates who have probably had the rottenest Christmas any of them can remember. And when you hear that these three are the Commons, the Lords and the Church, you must surely conclude that I am an even better boy than you thought. For when did a member of the Fourth Estate ever do as much for any one of the other three, let alone all of them simultaneously?

Here is the first slice, on its way to that beleaguered spot where the Prime Minister sits, among the dropping needles, with his head in his hands. He does not know what to do about that woman. No, not that woman. Nor even, for once, that Woman. This that woman that he does not know what to do about is the Princess of Wales. For he has just promised her a role in public life. He doesn't know why, it just slipped out, the way things do, and now he doesn't know what, either. He dare not give her the job she wants, she would be a roving cannon, he dare not give her a job she doesn't want, she would be on *Panorama* every five minutes fetchingly arguing that all her failures were really his.

That is also why the second slice of plum goes to her noble peers, whose own futures have been put in doubt by the doubtfulness of hers: one more aristocratic foot wrong and the entire wobbly structure could collapse into republican debacle, they would be at one with Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Earl Bostic and Lord Sutch, but with none of the talent, never mind the loss of £29 a day plus all found, just for having a kip.

And the Church? Here, the plum will shift its focus but begin, I suspect, to sharpen yours: for what is currently further ramshacking this third round estate is the dread of next Saturday. Because next Saturday, some sad jerk is going to win £40 million. He will not be a sad jerk when he wins it, of course, he will be a very happy jerk, he will not become a sad jerk until two days later, when the money begins, as, according to the lamentations of our bishops or, must, to wreck his life.

For once, the bishops are not wrong. We have seen it happen. We know that our new millionaires do not know what a million is, or what to do with it. They buy a suburban bungalow, a new Mondeo, a fortnight in Magaluf, and because that is all they have ever wanted, they do not know what to do with it. They have not been trained to spend. So they give the huge remainder to a Camelot adviser, who sticks it in gilts and pension funds, and the millionaires, bored and wantless, go back to delivering letters and plastering walls.

So do you see what, if we now reassemble the three segments, this plum is, apart of course from a laboured metaphor, and, imminently, an even more laboured pun? It is a plum job. It is a plum job for Diana, and one, moreover, for which she is uniquely qualified. She is the most experienced spender we have. Who better to train jerks to be millionaires, to tell them which Belgravian house to buy, which Ferrari, which Cessna, which private Bahamian atoll to lease for the summer, which chic Alp for the winter, which wardrobe to commission from Lagerfeld, which bespoke trinkets from Van Cleef & Arpels to set it off a treat, which restaurant to gorge in, which hydro to shed in, and which ass gives the best milk?

Lift your head, John! Give her this: under-secretary to Mrs. Bottomley, two big blondes in radiant harness, spreading joy. The lottery is your greatest legislative triumph, lacking so far, only the feedgood factor with which only Diana can endow it: she will not let the jerks wreck their poor lives, she will empower them to enrich their rich ones. She will make their feet good, and the country, too, placing the bishops, reassuring the lords, and jollying up your Government's prospects no end by squelching Labour's nerdy bid for lots of little, sensible prizes.

Every Camelot needs the right princess. This one was made for ours.

Bat and boule

BOXGROVE MAN might have put on more runs than Mike Atherton's batsmen yesterday. There are suspicions that, despite his immense age (80,000 years), he might have been a cricketer.

The human origins department at the Natural History Museum is investigating what may be prehistoric cricket balls, discovered at the site in West Sussex where the bones of the ancient Briton were previously found.

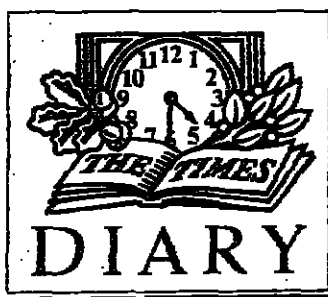
Mark Roberts, the Boxgrove project director from the Institute of Archaeology, is baffled: "We have discovered a number of chalk balls on the site, some of which are inscribed with chalk lines. They are about the size of cricket balls and they are completely enigmatic," he says. "They could possibly have been for some sort of recreational use, but until we have conserved and cleaned them we really don't know."

The bat and ball theory bears consideration. According to David Frith of *Wisden's Cricket Monthly*, one of the first recorded games took place in 1662, when six practitioners in Boxgrove were prosecuted for playing cricket on consecrated ground. But Roberts still isn't convinced: "As they are all grouped together, perhaps they were some ancient form of

boules, such as the French play." As investigations continue, the shinbone and teeth of Boxgrove Man go on public display for the first time today at the Natural History Museum.

Full rig

TOMORROW the new Governor of the Falklands, Richard Ralph, will proudly take home his ceremonial regalia (complete with cocked hat topped by 15in of swan's plumage) from the Savile Row store of Alan Bennett, official uniform



maker to colonial governors. He joins the Governors of Antigua, Bermuda and St Vincent in such resplendent attire, and the tailor is long in the making to a fifth Governor: Chris Patten in Hong Kong. Patten, however, has said that will not wear the traditional garb, even though his predecessor, Sir David Wilson, was an enthusiast for it. "A great shame," says Bennett. "The people of Hong Kong must think he can't afford it."

Top tippie

THE DUKE of Buccleuch, one of Scotland's richest men and the largest private landowner in Europe, has been tippieing away this Christmas. He is to market a 12-year-old malt whisky, Douglas Drumlanrig, in an attempt to lure visitors to his ancestral home, Drumlanrig Castle. "I can't claim to be a very good judge of whisky, but I just know

what I liked," said the Duke, 72, from the sports, electric wheelchair to which he has been confined since a riding accident 24 years ago. The Duke sampled a number of malts to ensure he got the taste of Drumlanrig. "It's a personal thing, I got really quite into it in the course of my sampling."

Booted

THE Labour-controlled council in Camden provided Virginia Bottomley with an early Christmas present: her car was clamped as she popped in to see her aunt, Peggy Jay. It was parked outside Mrs Jay's Hampstead flat, and there was a pre-paid Camden council scratchcard parking permit on the dashboard.

The usually meticulous Heritage Minister hadn't scratched the card, as required, to indicate when she parked, and consequently had to fork out £38 to free her vehicle. However, she brushes off the incident: "It was all really just a bit of bad luck. But it was a very happy family tea party."

• "If the Conservative Party cannot use people like me in one way or another, even stuffing envelopes," said the defuncting MP Emma Nicholson the other day, "then it really has changed." Yesterday hundreds of envelopes pinched from the House of Commons stationary cupboard were



Bickersteth: future diarist

dumped without ceremony outside her door in the Commons.

Ella's view

A LITTLE GIRL beloved of Lewis Carroll, but who wasn't called Al-

ice, has emerged posthumously as a literary figure in her own right. Ella Bickersteth — shown here here playing soldiers in Carroll's college rooms in Christ Church, Oxford, in 1865 — kept diaries which have now been edited by her grandson, Bishop John Bickersteth.

No fewer than a hundred members of the Bickersteth family turned out for the launch in Canterbury: the book's foreword is by Lord Coggan, and sales are already buoyant. "There have been Bickersteths in Canterbury for more than 60 years," says the former Bishop of Bath and Wells — and apparently the headmaster of the King's School, Canterbury, wants the book put on the school syllabus.

Cushy number

THE LATEST fashion accessory must be the cushion. The ageing rock singer Madonna, who is in London rehearsing her lead role in *Evita*, has been spotted running around the capital in evening gear clutching one tightly to her breast. No explanation was given. Was it a present? Is she suffering from a back complaint, or from some other ghastly condition which makes sitting down uncomfortable? Fashion queens are on tenterhooks for the answer.

P.H.S



THE HOLLAND REPORT

A timely reminder of falling standards at school

The history of postwar education is marked out in speeches and papers expressing worry, doubt and fear of falling standards. Many of them have been mocked on publication but almost all have been of benefit in time. The debate on education is in constant need of urgency. Political parties by themselves have now become so bogged down in arguments about the structures of school management that they seem barely to have noticed the inexorable relative slippage in school standards. Yesterday's speech by Sir Geoffrey Holland, a former Permanent Secretary at the Department for Education, was a cold and timely reminder of how badly Britain performs compared with its competitors overseas.

Sir Geoffrey set out in bald statistics the failure of this country's education and training systems, recently dismissed as "inadequate" by the World Economic Forum. Britain lost four places last year in the global competitiveness table: meanwhile its workforce is becoming ever less skilled (in relative terms) and its education ranks only 35th in the world, far lower than its funding deserves. Britain has many fewer 16 and 17-year-olds in education than France and Germany. The proportion of 16-year-olds passing GCSEs in mathematics, the national language and one science is just 27 per cent here, compared with 62 per cent in Germany and 66 per cent in France.

At A level, the figures are just as bad. But the real problems start much earlier. Given a simple addition and subtraction, only 4 per cent of the bottom 40 per cent of British 13-year-olds could answer correctly. Given a far more complicated sum, 76 per cent of the equivalent Germans could do so. As Sir Geoffrey says, our 13-year-olds generally lag two years behind their continental equivalents and never catch up.

Given that the raw material cannot be much different, this is a terrible indictment of the standards of teaching and learning in British schools. But perhaps the results are not so surprising when it is remembered that 30 per cent of the lessons that Ofsted

inspectors observe in schools are deemed unsatisfactory.

Sir Geoffrey is well aware of the political constraints that limit further expenditure on education. So his prescriptions attempt to raise standards in a way that produces a bigger return on the money that is already spent. An assault on poor teachers would certainly reduce what Sir Geoffrey calls "waste" — lessons that do nothing to further a child's education. But recruiting new ones and paying them more, as he also suggests, is not costless. Some money can be raised by requiring further and higher education students to pay their way through college with a graduate tax; but that cash seems to have been earmarked by him for universal nursery education and smaller primary school classes.

His suggestion that pupils should take examinations when they are ready to do so instead of at a predetermined age would introduce a welcome element into schools of the flexibility that has already produced results in the vocational field. But there is no need, as he proposes, to "wave goodbye" to A levels. They could and should remain as a rigorous alternative to vocational qualifications, even within the unified qualification system that he wants to see.

Most important, however, is a change of philosophy in schools. And this is most likely to be achieved with the appointment of tough and determined head teachers. Countless examples already exist of poorly performing schools being turned round by a new head, with no extra money but with an ethos that embraces rigour, discipline, enthusiasm and high expectations.

So Sir Geoffrey is right to identify problems of leadership in schools. And he is right too to concentrate our minds on outcomes as well as processes and structures. Britain's education system is producing unacceptably poorly-qualified people. This is a problem not just for parents or children. It is a problem for the whole country — its society, its economy and its position in the world.

RING IN THE NEW

British Telecom's new man and his battles ahead

A new year, a new chief executive and a new battle with the regulator: British Telecom's new chief executive, Sir Peter Bonfield, started his job this week by promising that 1996 presaged a "roller-coaster ride" for the company, on both the regulatory and competition fronts. If Don Cruickshank, Director-General of Telecommunications, is not already sharpening his sabre, he should pull out the whetstone now.

Sir Peter arrives fresh from ICL, Britain's biggest computer company. Used to private-sector competition, rather than near-monopoly regulation, he may well have decided that the best way to stop a watchdog biting one's ankles is to growl at it. But, having spent much of his career in America, he will also understand the experience of utility oversight there. By US standards, BT is hardly the cowering victim of overzealous regulation that it sometimes pretends to be.

Mr Cruickshank is a devoted champion of the consumer. But he is not a devoted regulator. He would prefer competition to do for the consumer the job that he is forced to do through such techniques as price-capping. Twelve years after privatisation, however, BT still retains 90 per cent of the telecoms market and dominates every area in which it operates. Ofsted has to prevent BT exploiting this near-monopoly position at the expense of the user.

Instead of the present filigree of rules and regulations, Ofsted would prefer simply to have the power to seek out anti-competitive behaviour and put an end to it. It has proposed such a change in BT's operating

licence, but the company has rejected the idea, along with a suggested new pricing structure. If the two bodies remain at loggerheads, the issue will be resolved by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Mr Cruickshank has good reason to be suspicious of BT. The last issue on which they clashed was so-called "number portability" — which would allow customers who switched from one telephone company to another to keep their old number. Although the technology for this has been available since 1992, BT has been reluctant to put it into practice, thereby keeping a large deterrent in the way of people opting for another provider. Eventually, the disagreement was taken to the MMC, which ruled in Ofsted's favour.

The consumer should rejoice at Ofsted's power. Since privatisation, BT's customers have paid 40 per cent less in call charges, while the company's efficiency has risen by 40 per cent. They need not weep for the company. Thanks to its digital exchanges, it can now offer all sorts of profitable new services, such as "call waiting". And the convergence of telecoms, computers and home entertainment will open up myriad avenues of business in the future.

If BT wants less interference from Mr Cruickshank, it will have to accept more competitive pressure from its rivals. Its status as "national champion" is not under threat. Companies that are cosseted at home do badly abroad. Only innovative, competitive and efficient operators can hope to do well in the international race.

THE EURO-GOAT

The noble sign of Capricorn rules over everyone born between December 21 and January 20. But because of its influence over New Year's Day, there have been an unusual number of institutions created under its sway.

Britain's relationship with the European Union began under Capricorn on New Year's Day, 1973; the European single market was formally inaugurated on January 1, 1993. But these dates will be remembered as little more than pre-history, if the single European currency, which was christened "euro" as Capricorn was rising last month over Madrid, survives its eight-year gestation and is delivered on schedule under Capricorn on January 1, 1999.

Astrology tells us that Capricorns, in spite of their goathish ruler, are marked by nobility and patience, rather than by aggressiveness, levity or concupiscence. Among their virtues are a powerful sense of duty and responsibility for others, as well as the willingness to take a long-term view. Their vices are pessimism, depression and undue conservatism. In the early years of the EEC, the Capricornian virtues were far more in evidence than the vices. But as Europe prepares for the birth of the monetary changeling of Maastricht, the Capricornian gloom is settling across the continent like a pall. The effort to turn the whole continent into the economic simulacrum of Germany — one moderately successful, but by no

means faultless country — has instilled pessimism and depression into the peoples of all Europe. Europe's leaders have attempted to justify their relentless and unpopular federalist quest with a typically Capricornian response.

They have demanded sacrifice and patience, attempting to evoke a sense of historic duty and to convince the disgruntled of their responsibility to generations yet unborn. When all else has failed, as it did in France just before Christmas, they have fallen back on fearful conservatism. Political elites who have dedicated themselves for decades to smothering Germany in a united Europe can now imagine no other course.

But despite all the politicians' efforts, the European people have remained negative and morose. They find no inspiration in the euro, foreseeing in its birth in 1999 only the start of a long and oppressive age of Capricornian timidity and gloom.

It needs neither an expert astrologer nor an expert economist to see why. The birth of the euro, whether it occurs under Capricorn or any other of the 12 star-signs, will indeed be a day of deep ill-omen for the whole of Europe. Perhaps the leaders of the member states of the EU should take note — before it is far too late — of the principal astrological prediction for Capricorns for 1996: "This is a year to avoid monetary commitments and seek the possibility of more spiritual expression."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Accounting for failures in manufacturing industry

From Eur Ing Professor Alexander Kennaway

Sir, Tim Congdon, in his article of December 28, "Where have all Britain's middle-aged men gone?", wonders why we are no better off after the Tory transformation of manufacturing industry. He should look elsewhere than to labour productivity and costs for his answers, especially in the field of mechanical engineering.

For example, according to a recently published report, few British suppliers to the automotive industries devote much time and resource to research and development or to design, whereas in Japan even the small firms in that sector spend between 5 and 10 per cent of their turnover on R & D.

Secondly, the practice of driving down costs of suppliers is double-edged, since many companies can no longer afford to invest in better products and processes. We are in danger of returning to the blinkered view that the main aim of work is reducing labour costs: the reduction of human beings to automaton serving machines, which failed in the 1930s, will fail again to promote a thriving economy.

Thirdly, modern production systems require fewer manually skilled craftsmen of the old school. The operation of these systems requires people with the ability to manage a largely computer-controlled process within a fast-moving commercial environment. Initiative, intelligence, imagination, flexibility and the ability to learn

new skills and cultures are the qualities called for, and these require re-training in addition to education and training.

Finally, I would remind Mr Congdon that the shift of such work to the countries of the Pacific Rim threatens the traditional employment of many people in advanced industrial countries.

Yours faithfully,
A. KENNAWAY,
12 Fairholme Crescent,
Ashted, Surrey,
December 29.

From Mrs Sandra R. Painz

Sir, Tim Congdon presents a very narrow view, based on highly debatable assumptions. My own belief is that the cause of the Government's failure to keep a vital and highly productive group of people (ie, men in late middle age) fully employed arises from the Conservative's policies of privatisation, deregulation, trade union reform and reduced government intervention in industry.

Yours faithfully,
SANDRA PAINZ,
11 Hydefield Close,
Winchmore Hill, N21,
December 29.

From Mr John Knox

Sir, According to Philip Bassett ("What Britain pays for unemployment", *Business*, December 29) the

total cost of our unemployment per person is "a notch under £8,000" every year.

Many of those included in these figures have been made redundant because of subsidised imports. Italy, for instance, runs a trading surplus in textiles which mirrors our own deficit in that trade.

How many shirts at a subsidised saving of, say, £1.50 each does the nation have to buy annually to compensate for full-time textile redundancies costing almost £8,000 a year per victim?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KNOX,
Hareville House, Kettlewell Bottom,
Harrogate, North Yorkshire,
January 2.

From Mr J. W. Williams

Sir, Surely the achievement of higher productivity in manufacturing can be closely related to the "loss" of so many skilled and dedicated workers aged between 35 and 65. For Tim Congdon to postulate that "perverse work incentives created by some of Britain's social security and tax arrangements" are at the root of the Government's economic problems is a bit hard to swallow.

Yours sincerely,
J. W. WILLIAMS,
2 Cherwell Cottage,
The Green, Freeland, Oxfordshire,
December 29.

Burglary and defence of the home

From Mr Michael Stephen, MP for Shoreham (Conservative)

Sir, Mr Francis Bennion (letter, December 28) criticises the Home Secretary for asking the police and the Crown Prosecution Service to treat any "have-a-go hero" more sympathetically. Today's report on the businessman who struggled in his own home with an alleged burglar, with fatal results, makes it all the more clear that such criticism is misconceived.

The Home Secretary has no legal power to instruct either the police or the CPS in such matters, and he has not done so. However, the public do hold him accountable, and they are rightly concerned when people seeking to protect their homes, families, and property from criminals find themselves in court.

Mr Howard is entitled to draw these concerns to the attention of any

agency in the criminal justice system, and I am glad that he has done so. A burglar enters a person's house at his own risk and should not complain if he suffers injury or detention.

It is my view, which I have argued in Parliament, that no householder in such a situation should even be taken to the police station unless the circumstances are quite exceptional. Nor should the injured criminal be entitled to make a civil claim without leave of the court.

Burglary is a dreadful crime, which can ruin the lives of its victims. Burglars must understand that they will no longer be accorded the resigned toleration which they have enjoyed for the past thirty years.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL STEPHEN,
House of Commons,
January 3.

Export assistance

From Sir Robin Knox-Johnston

Sir, Sir Ralph Robins (letter, December 28) is right to emphasise the need to maintain the commercial sections of our embassies and high commissions. While recognising the pure diplomatic function of our overseas posts, I would suggest that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department of Trade and Industry should be exploring ways of increasing support facilities for UK firms, many of which are too small to have the first-class international organisation and reputation of, say, Sir Ralph's own company, Rolls-Royce.

During a series of discussions with potential sponsors for my next global

yacht race, my people at Clipper 96 have too often had to explain that HMG representatives are indeed willing to offer all reasonable help for local trade promotions in any of the 15 stopover ports. If more were known of the enthusiasm and expertise of our commercial envoys perhaps fewer firms would be nervous of looking beyond the EU for new markets.

The FCO and DTI must be encouraged to sing their own praises and be drawn out the "noises off" who would like to cut back on these services.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN KNOX-JOHNSTON
(Chairman, Clipper 96),
Covley House,
Little College Street, SW1,
January 1.

Out of pocket

From Mr Barend van der Sanden

Sir, If the cost of a forged ten franc piece is one franc and the sale price is £10 ("French forgers threaten new European coins", January 1) then the profit is 900 per cent, not 90 per cent.

When in Nice, one of these coins came into my possession. My loss was 100 per cent.

Yours,
BAREND van der SANDEN,
35 Downs View Road,
Swindon, Wiltshire,
January 2.

Ashtrays à la Carlyle

From Miss Susan Pease

Sir, I don't know if my method is the same as that of the Carlyle hotel in New York (letters, December 21, January 1) and my ashtrays are not glued down; but I find that the tube from a cylinder vacuum cleaner or a damp cloth works very well and saves spreading ash more than necessary.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN PEASE,
130 Goldhurst Terrace, NW6.

Single currency

From Dr E. J. Mishan

Sir, It may be true, as Mr Vernon Ellis asserts (letter, December 16), that most European businessmen prefer a single European currency. But contrary to his belief, the single currency would not produce a stable economic environment.

So long as exchange rates remain variable any incipient deficit, say, in

A stitch in time

From Ms Helen France

Sir, On a recent Saturday afternoon, during a game of hockey, my partner sustained a deep cut on the chin, requiring stitches. At a nearby hospital emergency department he was seen by a nurse within half an hour for an initial assessment, thus paying lip service to the requirements of the Citizen's Charter.

After a further hour-and-a-half wait a nurse spent ten minutes administering stitches and a tetanus jab. The doctor spent the whole of this time hunched over a computer terminal, apparently trying to find the word "stitches" in the multitude of menus so that it could be selected and added to the medical record.

If doctors are having to spend so much time playing secretary it is small wonder that there is a shortage of them and that waiting lists for operations which unfortunately cannot be done by even the most competent of secretaries are so long.

Yours,
HELEN FRANCE,
42 Bristow Road,
Bedleyheath, Kent,
December 31.

Britain's balance of payments tends to correct itself through a decline in sterling relative to other currencies, and vice versa.

If, on the other hand, sterling is fixed, or if we adopt a single European currency, any persisting balance-of-payments deficit acts to reduce employment and income in Britain, so destabilising the economy.

In sum, if the tendency to balance-of-payments equilibrium through variations in the exchange rate is impeded, equilibrium can be restored only by variations in income and employment.

Yours faithfully,
E. J. MISHAN,
22 Gainsborough Gardens, NW11,
December 16.

Charity giving as lottery incentive

From Mr Paul Buttle

Sir, I was astonished to read Lord Asor's assurance (letter, December 28; see also letter, December 21) that "as a result of concerns expressed on all sides in both Houses on the effect of the proposed lottery on charitable giving the Government agreed that the lottery should not be allowed to market itself as a way of making a charitable donation".

He must surely have noticed, to paraphrase his own words, that the clear divide between buying a lottery ticket and giving to charity has already become muddled.

In November a full-page advertisement appeared in several newspapers of a handicapped woman seated in a wheelchair. In bold letters above the picture were the words: "Judy now has power steering and a top speed of 70 mph." In smaller lettering beneath, it continued: "£30,000 has been given by the National Lottery Charities Board to buy a 16-seat minibus for the Stafford Swallows Sports Club for the Disabled."

The advertisement went on to say that "... whenever you play The National Lottery, you'll be helping someone else to further themselves", and concluded with the cheery crossed-fingers symbol and the words "The National Lottery Charities Board is independent of Camelot Group plc and the Government".

I complained to the Advertising Standards Authority that this advertisement might appear to have been placed by the National Lottery Charities Board. They did not agree. They said that the use of Camelot's logo in the advert, by which I think they mean the crossed-fingers symbol, would leave readers in no doubt that Camelot were the advertisers.

I then complained to Ofsted that the advertisement seemed designed to persuade readers to spend money on lottery tickets, of which only a fraction goes to charity, instead of giving it straight to charity. Ofsted did not agree. They doubted "that the advert was designed to divert money away from charities ... instead that it was meant to remind people ... [that lottery] sales benefit good causes".

Reminding people of the lottery money which goes to "good causes" then is obviously not the same as marketing the lottery as a way of making charitable contributions. Perhaps Ofsted can see this distinction: I'm afraid it is lost on me.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL BUTTLE,
18 Brewery Lane, Keswick, Cumbria,
December 26.

From Prebendary Rodney Schofield

Sir, Anglican bishops may condemn huge lottery wins as "grotesque" and "obscene", and bemoan the ill-effects of a scratchcard culture (report, January 1), but I fear their words will carry little weight until they also renounce taking advantage of the heritage funds that are generated.

This will be a hard and bitter financial pill to swallow, costing the Church millions of pounds. But that, I believe, is the price of moral integrity — or so I was taught in my Methodist upbringing, for which I remain profoundly grateful.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY SCHOFIELD,
The Rectory, West Monkton,
Taunton, Somerset,
January 1.

Barnwell Manor

From Mr Paul R. M. Howell

Sir, Barnwell Manor was not "put up for sale" by the Duke of Gloucester as stated by PHS on December 23. The duke has leased the manor and the medieval castle that nestle in the grounds to me for a period of ten years, and I understand that there is every probability that the Gloucesters will return to Barnwell when the lease expires.

Yours etc,
PAUL R. M. HOWELL,
Berengar Antiques, Barnwell Manor,
Barnwell, nr Oundle,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire,
January 2.

The Magi's star

From Lord Kilbracken

Sir, If the Star of Bethlehem was no more than a conjunction of two planets (letter, December 28), how did the Magi know they should stop when they reached Bethlehem?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KILBRACKEN,
Killegar, Co Leitrim, Ireland.

Really and truly?

From Mr A. C. McCourt

Sir, My hitherto fruitless search for a satisfactory definition of that elusive but much-bruited concept of "virtual reality" has been further complicated by the information in your *Archers* anniversary feature ("Racer Archers plough on into their 46th year", January 1) that the list of "real" people who had played themselves in the series included Dame Edna Everage.

Yours faithfully,
A. C. MCCOURT,
Prospect House,
Inglesbatch, Bath, Avon,
January 2.

"Many people don't know what's implied in being a leader. He must be a really capable

Summer off to a slow start

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

ATTEMPTS to persuade holidaymakers to book early for summer packages have so far failed.

Despite massive discounting backed by strident and costly television and newspaper advertisements, travel agents and tour operators throughout Britain are privately admitting that demand is at best only "sluggish" and that, overall, the number of summer holidays sold so far is around 30 per cent down on the number sold in the same period last year.

Many are, however, confident that bookings will pick up later in January - traditionally the month during which around a third of all summer holidays are sold. And big tour operators, such as Thomson, say that although the market dropped to around 40 per cent below last year's level just before Christmas, it picked up again last Saturday to almost the same level as the first Saturday of 1995.

Nonetheless, millions of customers appear determined to wait before rushing out to book. For the next few weeks, therefore, the entire travel industry will be holding its breath in the hope that families throughout Britain begin walking into high street shops to put down a deposit.

So far, families with young children - traditionally the backbone of the Mediterranean package holiday market - are resolutely refusing to do so. "They are being very cautious about the money they are prepared to spend. We believe they have been waiting to see what the industry is going to offer in the way of price cuts before making their minds up," said a senior Thomson official.

Most insiders blame the bad weather, which kept people indoors immediately after Christmas. But Thomas Cook also blames the sales offers being made by other high street retailers. "As business routine returns to normal

and the weather relents, we are expecting an upturn in bookings over the next two weeks," said Andrew Windsor, commercial director of Thomas Cook.

Going Places, the second biggest travel agency chain with 707 shops, believes that the trend towards late bookings which has become established over the past few years will take some time to turn around, and that the upturn should come once children have returned to school.

Lunn Poly, the biggest chain of agencies, insists that it is still too early to tell but admits that the market is "soft". Privately, however, several individual travel agencies in the group admitted that sales were extremely poor.

Even before the new programmes were launched, the industry was predicting a big fall in the number of holidays which would eventually be taken this year, and deliberately withdrew more than a million from sale. But even the most pessimistic did not expect the slump in bookings to have continued so long.

On the brighter side, they claim that bookings for this winter are well up, especially to long-haul destinations such as the Caribbean and Florida. Skiing is still losing popularity, with bookings down by almost 10 per cent on last year.

Cruising for the summer season is proving popular, however, and bookings for Turkey are already well ahead of last year.

The trend towards long-haul holidays is marked. Kuoni, which specialises in long-haul travel, sold 12 per cent more last year than in 1994 and expects the market to be even stronger this year. Sri Lanka is selling well, it says, as are Mexico, Australia and Thailand.

Even though long-haul holidays are much more expensive, up to 40 per cent of the holidaymakers who have booked so far have chosen far-flung exotic destinations.

A new map pinpoints favourite film locations for tourists who want to be far from the madding crowd

Movie tour of Britain

A DETAILED map of film and television locations throughout Britain is to be issued free to help tens of thousands of movie-tourists to trace the spot where their favourite film was made, Harvey Elliott writes.

Some local authorities have already organised walking tours around well-known film locations and the British Tourist Authority (BTA) is to issue more than 250,000 Movie Maps to encourage this trend. "The interest stimulated when a village or a city is seen in the cinema or on television is enormous," Adele Bliss, the BTA chairman, says. "The map will encourage people to get out and explore."

An influx of visitors often follows a particular TV programme. Towns used by the *Antiques Roadshow* or *Songs of Praise*, for example, report an immediate upsurge of visitors.

Overseas visitors are equally influenced by what they have seen of Britain on their own televisions. The 1942 *Wuthering Heights* was an instant box-office hit in Japan. The BTA distributed leaflets at cinema doors there and a competition offered a holiday in North Yorkshire's Brontë country. The scheme was so successful that many of the tourist direction signs in and around Haworth are now in Japanese and English.

The BTA has combined with the British Academy of Film and Television Arts and Vauxhall, which is sponsoring the Movie Map, to distribute the leaflet through the BTA's 600 information centres in Britain and 40 overseas.

Researchers have traced the locations of dozens of the most popular films and television programmes and have included many which are particularly popular abroad. Old favourites include *The Dam Busters* which was filmed in 1954 at Elan Valley in Wales, several Beatles films, the 1967 version of *Far From the Madding Crowd* which was filmed in Dorset and the Vale of Pewsey, and the 30-year-old cult television programme *The Prisoner*, which was made in Portmeirion, North Wales.

The map will be published at the end of this month.

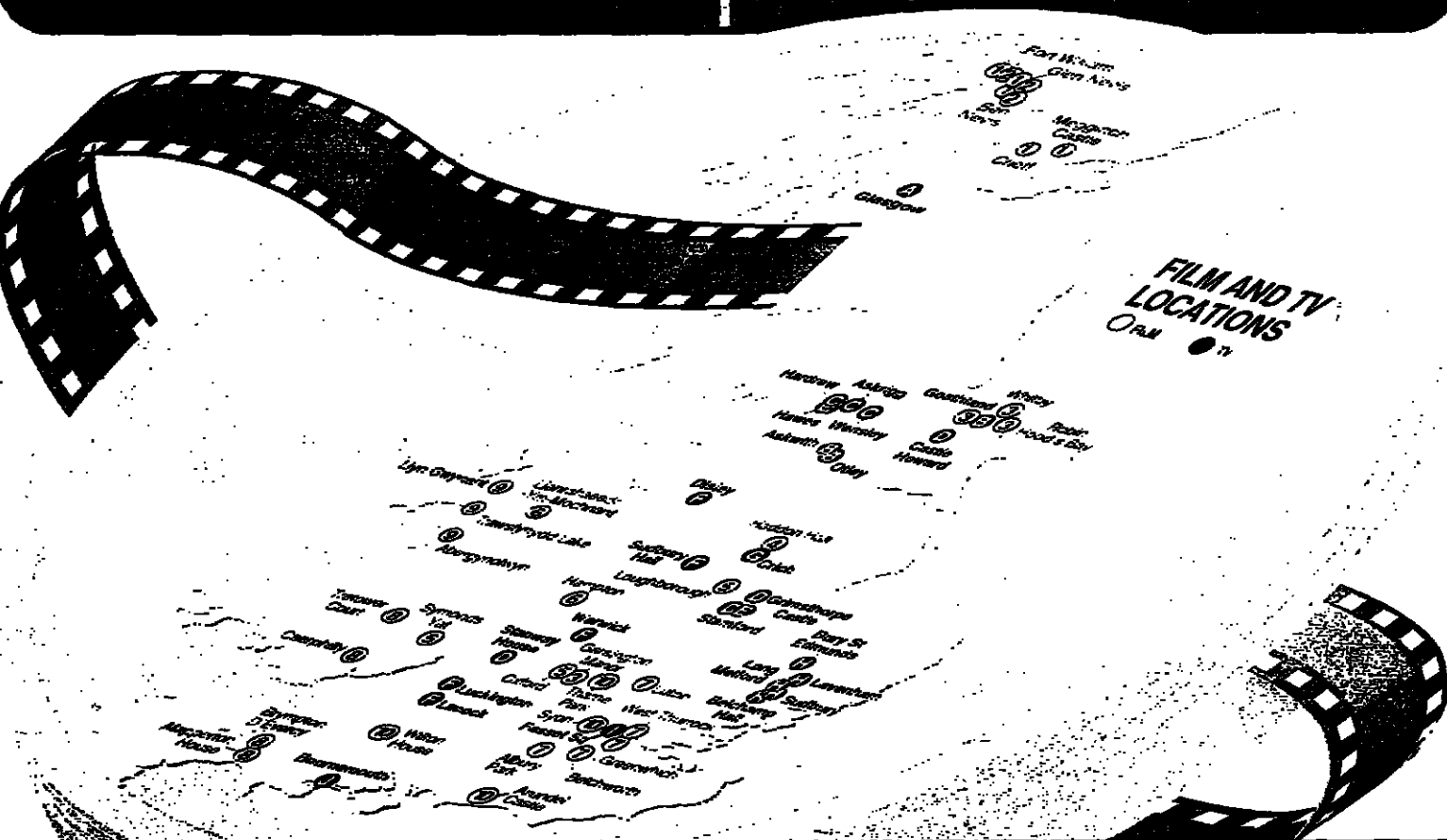
A SELECTION OF RECENT FILM AND TV LOCATIONS

FILM

1. *Rob Roy*: The classic Scottish legend of Robert Roy MacGregor brought to the screen with Liam Neeson, Jessica Lang and John Hurt. Filmed on the west coast of Scotland, Megginch Castle in Perthshire and at Drummond Castle, Crieff.
2. *Braveheart*: Another Scottish epic of brave Highland men fighting the marauding English. The magnificent scenery of the mountains around Fort William and the purpose-built village at the foot of Ben Nevis were used as the stunning backdrop.
3. *Carrington*: Emma Thompson and Jonathan Pryce play the painter Dora Carrington and writer Lytton Strachey on the wild and beautiful North Yorkshire Moors at Gashland, the Yorkshire coast near Whitby. A Sussex bed and breakfast and Garsington Manor in Oxford.
4. *Jane Eyre*: Based on the classic novel by Charlotte Brontë, the drama of the penniless orphan who finds love and happiness stars William Hurt and Jean Poywright and was filmed at the magnificent battlemented Haddon Hall in Derbyshire.
5. *Shadowlands*: The true story of the relationship between C.S. Lewis and the vivacious New Yorker Joy Gresham. Filmed at Magdalen College, Radcliffe College and the Sheldonian Theatre Oxford, the rolling hills of Herefordshire and in Loughborough.
6. *The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill But Came Down a Mountain*: Hugh Grant stars in the story of a mountain which was too small to be on the map. Filmed at Llanhaeadr-y-Mochnant in Ceredigion, North Wales and Hampton Loade in the Severn Valley.
7. *Four Weddings and a Funeral*: Filmed at Luton Hoo, Beds; the Crown Hotel in Amersham; Bucks; and churches in Betchworth, Surrey; Albury Park, Guildford; the Royal Naval College Chapel Greenwich; St Bartholomew-the-Great and St Clements, West Thurrock, Essex.
8. *Restoration*: Mes Ryan and Robert Downey star in the post-Draconian drama set in the Jacobean manor of Brympton D'Evercy, Somerset; Mapperton House gardens, Forde Abbey and Gaeppilly Castle.
9. *First Knight*: The legend of King Arthur was filmed on the shores of the beautiful Traoshydd Lake, Snowdonia National Park, and other parts of Wales including the fascinating slate mine at Gidda Ganol.
10. *Madness of King George*: Nigel Hawthorne and Helen Mirren star in the story of the King's apparent insanity which put the throne at risk. Filmed at Syon House, near London; Thame Park, Oxfordshire; Wilton House, Wiltshire and Arundel Castle in Sussex.

TV

- A. *Taggart*: The dour Scottish detective takes on the Glasgow villains. Filmed in and around the City originally at Partick Police Station but now at night at Turnbull Street Police Station.
- B. *Heartbeat*: London policeman leaves the big city to become a village hobby in North Yorkshire. The picturesque village of Gashland on the main line of the North York Moors steam railway provides the setting with Askwith and Otley also often appearing.
- C. *All Creatures Great and Small*: Based on the James Herriot books about life as a country vet. It was filmed in Wensleydale and Swaledale with the village scenes shot in Askwith. Also used were the market in Hawes, and Hardraw and Wensley churches.
- D. *The Buccaneers*: Serial about a group of women from New York who took Victorian England by storm. Filmed at Castle Howard, North Yorkshire, at Burghley House, Stamford and Grimsthorpe Castle in Lincolnshire and Stanway House in the Cotswolds.
- E. *Middlemarch*: Based on George Eliot's classic novel of the industrial revolution, the story of love, disillusionment and blackmail is set in Stamford, Lincolnshire which now runs popular Middlemarch walking tours.
- F. *Pride and Prejudice*: The television event of 1995, Jane Austen's novel was made for television in the Wiltshire villages of Luckington and Lacock; Lyme Park in Disley, Cheshire; Sudbury Hall in Derbyshire; Warwick and the Derbyshire countryside.
- G. *Peak Practice*: The doctors' practice in the Peak District was filmed at the village of Chesham, Derbyshire. The doctors' house is in reality Melkridge House, Dimple Lane in the village.
- H. *Leveley*: Ian McShane is the reclusive antique dealer. The series was filmed at many Suffolk villages including Long Melford, Sudbury, Lavenham, Felsham, and Bury St Edmunds. Belchamp Hall was used as Lady Jane's home, Felsham Hall.
- I. *EastEnders*: Although this immensely popular serial is filmed in a specially built closed set at Ebbw Vale, North London, it is based on the real-life Fassell Square in Hackney, in the East End.
- J. *One Foot in the Grave*: Richard Wilson and Annette Crosbie star in the award-winning comedy about a cantankerous retired man and his long-suffering wife. Their house and suburban surroundings were filmed in Bournemouth, Hants.



Mandela tour opens

By TONY DAW

AN EARLY contender for the 1996 "What will they think of next?" award for tour operators comes from South African Airways Holidays with its 15-day Nelson Mandela tour.

The holiday even pays a visit to Robben Island, where President Mandela was imprisoned for 18 years.

Entitled "In the Footsteps of the President", the holiday, costing £2,175 a person, traces Mandela's life from his birthplace at Qunu, his school

and university education to his inauguration as President in 1994.

It includes guided tours of Soweto, Robben Island and the Victor Verster prison from which he finally walked to freedom.

The holiday could even be said to have the President's blessing, for the tour company needed a special government permit to take visitors on the

short boat trip from Cape Town to Robben Island.

A company spokesman said: "We started with the idea of promoting the Eastern Cape area where the President was born and then it grew into a grander tour providing more of an insight into his life and South Africa as a whole." The lighter moments are provided by trips along the Garden Route from Johannesburg to Cape Town and to the beautiful Karoo semi-desert.



Mandela: in his footsteps

Fares up after French strike

By STEVE KEENAN

THE strike by French air traffic controllers, which ended last month, will increase the cost of British holidays.

The public workers' strike forced holiday flights to the Mediterranean to fly around French airspace for three weeks, hugely increasing airline fuel costs.

But European bureaucracy meant airlines still had to pay the French, despite being routed through Germany or into the North Atlantic.

The combined bill to charter and scheduled airlines is an estimated £12 million, which the carriers say will have to be passed on to passengers.

One charter airline, Air 2000, said the strike cost it £150,000 in extra flying costs, while an extra £230,000 was paid to the French.

With Air 2000 representing 7 per cent of charter seats, the total bill to UK charters was

more than £4 million. The cost to scheduled airlines is likely to be double that, said Air 2000's navigation manager, Paul Collins.

"We cannot pass on that cost to those people who have already travelled, but the price of new tickets will have to rise. It is either that or we go out of business," he said.

British airlines have to notify the Eurocontrol air traffic control centre of flight plans up to 20 hours in advance. The centre then determines the most obvious route. The airline is charged whether the flight operates on the route or not, and the relevant ATC of each country is paid.

"We effectively paid twice for the same flight," said Mr Collins. "If it had happened at the height of the summer or over Christmas, it would have been a disaster."

TRAVEL SPECIAL

With 36 pages in the Magazine and 8 in Weekend, travel with The Times again on Saturday

The Magazine
Matthew Parris in Bolivia,
Roy Hattersley in Tuscany,
Alan Fiske in the Florida
PLUS Cuba, Portofino, the
Dordogne and Thailand

Weekend
Spain, Swan Hellenic
cruise, opera in Verona,
PLUS Lake Garda, Cyprus
and Australia

Fast to Dieppe at last

By ROBIN YOUNG

STENA Line has announced that its new fast ferry service on the Newhaven-Dieppe cross-Channel route will start "three months ahead of schedule" at the beginning of March. But the commencement could be said to be almost a year behind schedule, since the two-hour service was originally announced for spring 1995.

It was postponed because of a long drawn-out Australian court case between Sea Containers Ltd, owners of Hoverspeed, and the Tasmanian catamaran builder, Incat.

Stena is finally opening the service using a larger catamaran built by the Austal shipyard. The Stena Sea Lynx IV, carrying 148 cars and 600 passengers, is undergoing final sea trials in Australia.

Boost for Dublin

DUBLIN has shown the biggest growth in popularity with tourists seeking short-break holidays, according to Crystal Cities' annual survey of the top destinations for city breaks.

The warmth of the welcome, excellent hotels, good access and television exposure have boosted Dublin to third place behind Paris and Amsterdam.

Mr Anderson says that with more than 35 tour operators offering specialist programmes and some return fares at less than £600, New Zealand "has never been so accessible".

Late last year, Air New Zealand increased its weekly service from four to five flights and Ausbound, a charter operator, says that its early winter departures have been more than 90 per cent full.

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Kiwis change tack

NEW ZEALAND is changing its tourism strategy to persuade Britons to see the country as a holiday destination rather than merely a place for visiting friends and relatives. David Churchill writes.

But the country has already seen its tourist profile improving. For the 12 months to last November, the number of Britons going on holiday rose by 11.3 per cent, while those travelling to see friends and relatives declined by 2.1 per cent.

Officials believe that the country's wider tourist appeal was boosted by the Queen's visit last year when she attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Auckland.

Gregg Anderson, the New Zealand tourist board's marketing manager, says: "The figures show that New Zealand is beginning to have its

own identity and is coming out from under the shadow of Australia. It is no longer simply seen as a place people emigrate to for peace."

Initial findings from new research into consumer views of New Zealand also emphasise that many believe the country's uncrowded, untainted image is the main attraction as a holiday destination.

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